



COSMETIC PROCEDURES

POSITION STATEMENT
for RN and LPN Practice

A Position Statement is not a regulation of the NC Board of Nursing and does not carry the force and effect of law and rules. A Position Statement is not an interpretation, clarification, or other delineation of the scope of practice of the Board. A Position Statement is adopted by the Board as a means of providing direction to licensees who seek to engage in safe nursing practice. Board Position Statements address issues of concern to the Board relevant to protection of the public and are reviewed regularly for relevance and accuracy to current practice, the Nursing Practice Act, and Board Administrative Code Rules.

Issue:

It is within scope of practice for licensed nurses (RN and LPN) to perform cosmetic procedures, provided required criteria are met.

Cosmetic procedures refer to a broad range of procedures including but not limited to:

- Chemical Peels
- Sclerotherapy
- Micropigmentation
- Botox, Restalyne, Collagen Injections
- Micro-dermabrasion
- Laser for Aesthetics, Hair Removal
- Hair Transplants

Specific procedures may be evaluated using the Scope of Practice Decision Tree for RN and LPN Practice at www.ncbon.com >Nursing Practice >Position Statements and Decision Trees.

RN Role:

Does not require the on-site presence of a physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant or other licensed healthcare practitioner to perform prescribed/ordered cosmetic procedures.

LPN Role:

In order to perform prescribed/ordered cosmetic procedures, must have on-site presence and supervision by an RN, physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or other licensed health care practitioner acting within their scope.

Both RN and LPN Role:

1. Licensed physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or other licensed health care practitioner with prescriptive authority acting within her/his legal scope of practice must complete **client evaluation/assessment** for procedure appropriateness and issue a prescription/order for procedure implementation by the licensed nurse;
2. Licensed nurse has the **documented knowledge, skill, and competency** necessary to carry out the procedure in a safe manner;
3. Employing agency's **policies and procedures** are available in the facility.

Notes:

1. If working in a setting in which clients are independently presenting for cosmetic treatment (i.e., treatment has not been prescribed/ordered by a licensed healthcare provider based on an assessment) the licensed nurse can perform cosmetic procedures ONLY if also licensed in compliance with the North Carolina Electrolysis Practice Act and/or Cosmetic Arts Act.
2. If NC state law requires alternative licensure (e.g., providing massage and bodywork therapy beyond the context of nursing care delivery), the nurse must obtain required education and licensure PRIOR to implementing procedures.

3. Licensed nurses are held responsible and accountable for practicing at all times within the scope associated with their highest level of active licensure. Refer to “Practicing at Level Other Than Highest Licensure/Approval/Recognition Position Statement for RN, LPN, and APRN Practice” available at www.ncbon.com for more detail.

4. Licensed nurses educated and competent to perform cosmetic procedures using lasers are advised, PRIOR to implementing these procedures, to review the NC Medical Board’s guidance on Laser Hair and Tattoo Removal in the Position Statement on Laser Surgery available at: http://www.ncmedboard.org/resources-information/professional-resources/laws-rules-position-statements/position-statements/laser_surgery

References:

G.S. 90-171.20 (7) (e-f) & (8) (c) – Nursing Practice Act
G.S. 88A – Electrolysis Practice Act
G.S. 88B - North Carolina Cosmetic Art Act
21 NCAC 36.0224 (a & d) - RN Rules
21 NCAC 36.0225 (a & d) - LPN Rules

Approved: 2002
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