



# COSMETIC/AESTHETIC DERMATOLOGICAL PROCEDURES

POSITION STATEMENT  
for RN and LPN Practice

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*A Position Statement does not carry the force and effect of law and rules but 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.*

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## Issue:

It is within scope of practice for licensed nurses (RN and LPN) to perform cosmetic/aesthetic dermatological procedures as prescribed/ordered by a licensed physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or other licensed health care practitioner with prescriptive authority acting within her/his legal scope of practice, provided all criteria required in this statement are met.

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

- Chemical Peels
- Sclerotherapy
- Micropigmentation
- Light Treatments
- Neuromodulator and Dermal Filler Injections (e.g., Botox, Restalyne, Collagen)
- Micro-dermabrasion
- Laser for Aesthetics, Hair Removal
- Hair Transplants

Specific cosmetic/aesthetic dermatological procedures may be evaluated using the [Scope of Practice Decision Tree for the RN and LPN](#).

## 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/aesthetic dermatological procedures.

## LPN Role:

In order to perform prescribed/ordered cosmetic/aesthetic dermatological 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 must have the **documented knowledge, skill, and competency** necessary to carry out the cosmetic/aesthetic dermatological procedure in a safe manner;
3. Employing agency's cosmetic/aesthetic dermatological and emergency **policies and procedures** are available in the facility.

**Notes:**

1. If working in a setting in which clients are independently presenting for cosmetic/aesthetic dermatological treatment (i.e., treatment has not been prescribed/ordered by a licensed healthcare provider based on an evaluation/assessment) the licensed nurse can perform cosmetic/aesthetic dermatological procedures ONLY if also licensed in compliance with, and performing activities as authorized and regulated by, 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 Position Statement titled, "[Practicing at Level Other Than Highest Licensure/Approval/Recognition Position Statement for RN, LPN, and APRN Practice](#)" for more detail.
4. Licensed nurses educated and competent to perform cosmetic/aesthetic dermatological 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 on the NC Medical Board website.
5. Licensed RNs planning to establish an independent professional nursing business (professional corporation [PC] or professional limited liability company [PLLC] for the purpose of providing nursing and related services, must meet all criteria required in this statement, if they plan to implement cosmetic/aesthetic dermatological procedures as prescribed/ordered by a licensed physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or other licensed health care practitioner with prescriptive authority acting within her/his legal scope of practice. RNs can refer to information available on the NC Board of Nursing website, "[Professional Corporations and Professional Limited Liability Companies](#)" for more detail and are advised to seek legal advice if establishing a business.

LPNs are not authorized to own professional nursing businesses, in full or in part, under NC law.

**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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