

Cosmetic/Aesthetic Dermatological Procedures Guidelines

I. Introduction/Purpose:

- A. Registered Nurses (RN), Licensed Practice Nurses (LPN), and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) are accountable for the provision of safe competent nursing care in all practice settings. This includes but is not limited to various non-traditional practice settings that provide cosmetic/aesthetic dermatological procedures such as medical spas.
- B. It is within the 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 guideline are met.
- C. Cosmetic/aesthetic dermatological procedures refer to a broad range of procedures including but not limited to:
  - 1. Chemical Peels
  - 2. Micro-dermabrasion
  - 3. Sclerotherapy
  - 4. Laser for Aesthetics
  - 5. Laser Hair Removal
  - 6. Light Treatments
  - 7. Neuromodulator and Dermal Filler Injections (e.g., Botox, Restylane, Collagen)
- D. The Oklahoma Board of Nursing's [Decision Making Model for Scope of Nursing Practice Decisions](#) may be used to evaluate specific cosmetic/aesthetic dermatological procedures to determine if they are within the personal and legal scope of practice for an individual nurse.
- E. Nurses are responsible for verifying and clarifying any orders or treatment regimens that appear inaccurate, non-efficacious, or contraindicated. If a nurse has concerns, they must consult with the appropriate licensed practitioner and inform the ordering provider if the decision is made not to administer the prescribed treatment.

- II. RN Role: The RN does not require the on-site presence of a physician, APRN, Physician Assistant (PA), or other licensed health care practitioner to perform the prescribed/ordered cosmetic/aesthetic dermatological procedures if there is a valid order/prescription and a completed history and physical performed by the health

care practitioner. **Standing orders are not an appropriate substitute for the individualized order/prescription and history and physical.** Physicians are required by state regulations to have an established physician/patient relationship which shall include an initial evaluation, prior to treatment, that is either face to face or via telemedicine.

III. LPN Role: The LPN participates in the nursing process as assigned and requires supervision by an RN, physician, or dentist. Under appropriate supervision, an LPN may provide nursing services, including prescribed/ordered cosmetic/aesthetic dermatological procedures if there is a valid order/prescription and a completed history and physical performed by the health care practitioner. **Standing orders are not an appropriate substitute for the individualized order/prescription and history and physical.** Physicians are required by state regulations to have an established physician/patient relationship which shall include an initial evaluation, prior to treatment, that is either face to face or via telemedicine.

IV. Both RN and LPN Role:

- A. The nurse must have an individualized prescription/order for the procedure written by a physician, APRN, PA, or other licensed health care practitioner with prescriptive authority acting within their legal scope of practice and have completed a client evaluation/assessment for procedure appropriateness.
- B. Nurses must have the knowledge, skill, and competency necessary to carry out the cosmetic/aesthetic procedures and client monitoring in a safe manner.
- C. Agencies/businesses shall establish and maintain policies and procedures on-site for cosmetic/aesthetic dermatological procedures and emergency interventions.

V. Notes:

- A. If working in a setting in which clients may independently present for cosmetic/aesthetic dermatological procedures, the nurse is responsible for ensuring there is an individualized prescription/order from a duly authorized prescriber prior to performance of any procedures. Authorized prescribers include physicians, APRNs, PAs, or other licensed health care practitioner with prescriptive authority acting within their legal scope of practice.
- B. If Oklahoma 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.

- C. **Standing orders are not an appropriate substitute for the individualized order/prescription and history and physical.** Physicians are required by state regulations to have an established physician/patient relationship which shall include an initial evaluation, prior to treatment, that is either face to face or via telemedicine.
- D. Licensed nurses educated and competent to perform cosmetic/aesthetic dermatological procedures using lasers are advised, PRIOR to implementing these procedures, to review the Oklahoma Laser Hair Removal Act (59 O.S. §538.3) which provides additional requirements regarding this practice.
- E. The RN and LPN shall use the professional judgement required to implement treatments and pharmaceutical regimens prescribed by providers licensed and authorized by State law to prescribe such plans or regimens. The nurse who accepts responsibility for performing cosmetic/aesthetic dermatological procedures is accountable for:
  - 1. recognizing side effects,
  - 2. recognizing toxic effects,
  - 3. recognizing allergic reactions,
  - 4. recognizing immediate desired effects,
  - 5. recognizing unusual and unexpected effects,
  - 6. recognizing changes in a client's condition that contraindicates continuation of the procedure,
  - 7. anticipating those effects that may rapidly endanger a client's life or well-being, and
  - 8. making judgments and decisions concerning actions to take in the event such effects occur.
- F. The RN and LPN shall practice in compliance with all federal laws and regulations, and all Oklahoma laws and regulations including but not limited to, the Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act and the Oklahoma Pharmacy Act.

VI. Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Role:

- A. The client population must be within the scope of practice of the APRN based on their education, national certification, and experience.
- B. The APRN with diagnostic and prescriptive authority shall follow current clinical standards and evidence-based practice.
- C. Documentation should demonstrate:
  - 1. Review of the medical record/history was conducted, and no contraindications exist.
  - 2. Initial evaluation was performed prior to treatment including assessment of the client's status.
  - 3. Diagnosis including evidence-based indication for cosmetic/aesthetic dermatological procedures.

4. Treatment plan with contingency for care beyond the ability of the current practice site.
5. Client response to prescribed therapy.
6. Informed consent including risk and benefit.
7. Client education for pre-procedure, peri-procedure, after care, and follow up.

VII. Regulatory Authority:

59 O.S. §567.3a(2), (3), (4) and (5)

VIII. References:

Oklahoma Laser Hair Removal Act (59 O.S. §538.3)

<https://www.oscn.net/applications/oscn/DeliverDocument.asp?CiteID=538581>

Oklahoma Board of Nursing, Decision-Making Model for Scope of Nursing Practice Decisions: Determining Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, Registered Nurse and Licensed Practical Nurse Scope of Practice Guidelines

<https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/nursing/documents/prac-decmak.pdf>

Oklahoma Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision, Guidelines for Oklahoma Medical Spas & Aesthetic Procedures

[https://www.okmedicalboard.org/download/510/Med\\_Spa\\_Guidelines\\_1.18.24.pdf](https://www.okmedicalboard.org/download/510/Med_Spa_Guidelines_1.18.24.pdf)

Oklahoma Board of Osteopathic Examiners, Policy for Osteopathic Medical Spas

<https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/osboe/documents/policy/OSBOE-P004%20Policy%20for%20Osteopathic%20Medical%20Spas.pdf>

Georgia Board of Nursing, Cosmetic/Aesthetic Procedures Position Statement

[https://sos.ga.gov/sites/default/files/2024-06/cosmetic\\_aesthetic\\_position\\_statement\\_04012024.pdf](https://sos.ga.gov/sites/default/files/2024-06/cosmetic_aesthetic_position_statement_04012024.pdf)

North Carolina Board of Nursing, Cosmetic/Aesthetic Dermatological Procedures Position Statement

<https://www.ncbon.com/sites/default/files/documents/2024-02/ps-cosmetic-aesthetic-dermatological-procedures.pdf>