

The Nurse's Role in the Provision of Cosmetic Services

Summary: The Dermatology Nurses' Association recognizes that Cosmetic services which may include injections for cosmetic purposes are frequently provided in private practice and academic settings. The role of nurses in the provision of these services and the need for understanding and complying with international, national, regional and local safety standards and guidelines has resulted in the development and implementation of this position statement. Nurses fulfill many important roles in the provision of these cosmetic services. These roles and functions change based on the type of procedure, the setting where the treatment occurs and the educational level of the nurse.

The position of the Dermatology Nurses' Association is:

- Nurses who provide cosmetic services must work within the stated scope of practice as defined by their State Board of Nursing, and State Medical Board. This could be; but is not limited to the Nursing Practice Act and the State Board's Rules and Regulations.
- As defined by their licensure, educational preparation and certification/competency, Advanced Practice Nurses (APN), Registered Nurses (RN), Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN/LVN) and non-nurses are by nature different based on these integral factors and should function within their individual limitations.
- In many cases, it is considered a delegated function. The APN, RN and LPN are expected to comply with their state Nursing Practice Act and State's Rules and Regulations.
- Nurses, who are responsible for supervising other personnel delivering cosmetic services, must ensure that they are compliant with all national, state, professional, regional, local, and facility requirements.
- Appropriate medical and nursing support should be readily available to deal with potential side effects which could occur and require interventions that are outside of the Scope of Practice of the Nurse performing the procedure.
- Nurses must comply with national safety standards, institutional policies and procedures, and professional recommended practices.
- Nurses must document appropriate education, competency and/or certification that represent a core of knowledge and skill needed to perform safe and effective care of patients receiving Cosmetic Services. Appropriate education includes, but is not limited to: anatomy and physiology, pharmacology, drug administration and side effects, biophysics and tissue interactions, clinical applications, patient care and management, patient safety, and safety of the treatment environment.
- Nurses have worked in collaboration with medical staff in the development of written policies/procedures /practice guidelines and these are available for nursing staff practicing in the facility and the guidelines are reviewed annually as applicable.
- Nurses are expected to engage in ongoing professional development activities designed to maintain and increase their levels of knowledge and skill associated with the use the cosmetic services provided.

References

IEC International Electrotechnical Commission 60825 TR8

AORN Recommended Practices

Kentucky State Board of Nursing, Advisory Opinion Statement on Cosmetic Dermatological Procedures by Nurses Approved: February 2008

Texas Board of Nursing Position Statement on the Performance of Laser Therapy by RN's or LVNs Board Action 09/1993 Last reviewed 01/2010

Oregon State Board of Nursing, Policy Guideline: Nursing Scope of Practice for Cosmetic and Dermatologic Procedures Adopted: February 15, 2007