



Position Statement: Cosmetic/Aesthetic Procedures

Registered Nurses (RN) and Licensed Practice Nurses (LPN) are accountable for the provision of safe competent nursing care in all practice settings, including non-traditional practice settings that provide cosmetic/aesthetic procedures. For this position statement, cosmetic/aesthetic procedures are defined as neuromodulator and dermal filler injections (e.g., Botox, Restalyne, Collagen). It is within the scope of practice for an RN, not an LPN, to perform cosmetic/aesthetic procedures if authorized by a valid individualized order prescribed by a physician, nurse practitioner (NP), or physician assistant (PA) with prescriptive authority acting within his/her legal scope of practice.

RN Role:

The RN may perform a prescribed/ordered cosmetic/aesthetic procedure **if** there is an individualized order/prescription **and** a history and physical performed by the physician, NP, or PA. **Standing orders are not an appropriate substitute for the individualized order/prescription and history and physical.**

LPN Role:

It is not within the scope of practice for an LPN to perform prescribed/ordered cosmetic/aesthetic procedures.

Key Points:

1. If working in a setting in which clients may independently present for cosmetic/aesthetic procedures, the nurse is responsible for ensuring there is a valid, individualized prescription/order from an authorized prescriber **AND** a client history and physical performed by the prescriber for procedure appropriateness before the administration of any prescriptive or non-prescriptive medication or the implementation of a medical intervention/treatment. Authorized prescribers include physicians, NPs, or PAs with prescriptive authority acting within his/her legal scope of practice.
2. **Standing orders are not an appropriate substitute for the individualized order/prescription and history and physical.**
3. Nurses must have the documented knowledge, skill, and competency necessary to carry out the cosmetic/aesthetic procedure in a safe manner. (See Board of Nursing Decision Making Model for guidance: [38 Reference - Scope of Practice Decision Tree.pdf \(ga.gov\)](#))
4. Agencies/businesses shall establish and maintain policies and procedures on-site for the administration of cosmetic/aesthetics and emergency interventions.
5. The RN shall use the professional judgment 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 implementing the administration of cosmetic/aesthetic procedures is accountable for:
 - recognizing side effects, toxic effects, and allergic reactions,
 - recognizing changes in a client's condition that contraindicate continued administration of the pharmaceutical or treatment regimen, and
 - making judgments and decisions concerning actions to take in the event such effects/reactions occur.

6. **It is not within the RN or LPN scope of practice to make a medical diagnosis, identify medical problems, or develop medical/cosmetic/aesthetic treatment plans.**
7. The RN planning to establish an independent professional nursing business, corporation, limited partnership (LP), or limited liability company (LLC), to provide nursing and related services, must ensure they are compliant with all laws and rules applicable to the practice setting, procedures, and client population. The RN may refer to the Georgia Secretary of State's website [How to Guide: Register a Domestic Entity | Georgia Secretary of State \(ga.gov\)](#) for more information and is advised to seek legal advice if establishing a business.

References:

North Carolina BON Position Statement - [NC BON COSMETIC/AESTHETIC DERMATOLOGICAL PROCEDURES](#)
[Chapter 410-10 STANDARDS OF PRACTICE AND UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT](#)
[Chapter 410-11 REGULATION OF ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES](#)
[GA - GAC - Chapter 590-7. COMMISSIONER OF CORPORATIONS](#)
[O.C.G.A. Title 14 - Corporations, Partnerships, and Associations](#)

March 2024