



South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

Mark Sanford
Governor

Adrienne Riggins Youmans
Director

South Carolina Board of Nursing
110 Centerview Drive
Post Office Box 12367
Columbia, SC 29211-12367
Phone: (803) 896-4550
FAX: (803) 896-4525
www.llr.state.sc.us

ADVISORY OPINION # 39

FORMULATED: January 24, 2002

REVISED: May 2006

REVIEWED: November 2003; July 2005, July 2007

QUESTION: Is it within the role and scope of responsibilities for a licensed nurse to perform certain cosmetic procedures?

The Board of Nursing has determined that it is within the scope of practice for licensed nurses to perform certain cosmetic procedures as additional acts under the following guidelines:

Laser removal of hair and spider veins is within the scope of practice for only a Registered Nurse (RN) if the following criteria are met:

1. The supervising physician is immediately available on site and able to respond within five minutes to any question or adverse event.
2. The supervising physician/Advanced Practice registered Nurse (APRN) performs and documents an initial assessment prior to treatment and as needed during the course of therapy.
3. The RN has satisfactorily completed a documented special education and training program on applicable techniques and laser safety, which includes supervised practice and clinical skill competency.
4. The facility has applicable written policies and procedures.
5. Continuing education for these procedures is ongoing and documented.

Botox and collagen injections are within the scope for the only a Registered Nurse (RN) if the following criteria are met:

1. The supervising physician is immediately available on site and able to respond within five minutes to any question or adverse event.

2. The supervising physician/Advanced Practice registered Nurse(APRN) performs and documents an initial assessment prior to treatment and as needed during the course of therapy.
3. The RN has satisfactorily completed a documented special education and training program on applicable techniques and injection safety, which includes supervised practice and clinical competency.
4. The facility has applicable written policies and procedures.
5. Continuing education for these procedures is ongoing and documented.

The application of superficial chemical peels and microdermabrasions with agents such as salicylic acid, glycolic acid, Jessner's solution and Trichloroacetic acid at less than 20%, is within the scope of practice for both the RN and Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) as additional acts under the following guidelines:

1. The supervising physician/Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) performs and documents an initial assessment prior to treatment and as needed during the course of therapy.
2. The licensed nurse has satisfactorily completed a documented special education and training program which includes supervised practice and clinical skill competency.
3. The facility has applicable written policies and procedures.
4. Continuing education for these procedures is ongoing and documented.

The injection of telangectasis ("spider veins") (sclerotherapy) is within the scope of practice for only the RN as an additional act under the following guidelines:

1. The supervising physician/APRN performs and documents an initial assessment prior to treatment and as needed during the course of therapy.
2. The RN has satisfactorily completed a documented special education and training program which includes supervised practice and clinical skill competency.
3. The facility has applicable written policies and procedures, and written standing orders for dealing with allergic reactions.
4. Continuing education for these procedures is ongoing and documented.

This statement is an advisory opinion of the Board of Nursing as to what constitutes competent and safe nursing practice.