



SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING

4305 S. Louise Ave., Suite 201 | Sioux Falls, SD 57106-3115
605-362-2760 | <https://www.sdbon.org/>

Dermatological Procedures by Licensed Nurses

The South Dakota Board of Nursing is authorized by the state of South Dakota, pursuant to SDCL 36-9-1.1, to safeguard life, health and the public welfare; and to protect citizens from unauthorized, unqualified and improper application of nursing practices.

The South Dakota Board of Nursing issues opinions as to what constitutes safe nursing practice. As such, an opinion is not a regulation of the Board and does not have the force and effect of law. An opinion is issued as a guideline to licensees who wish to engage in safe nursing practice, and to facilitate the delivery of safe, effective nursing care to the public.

Initial Approval Date: 2002

Revised: April 2010, March 2011, November 2017, November 2024

Editorial Revisions: June 2019

The following guidelines are intended to promote safe care. Licensed nurses and institutions are encouraged to also refer to other national standards of practice and evidence-based literature to identify additional guidelines or considerations specific to a practice setting or patient population served.

Practice Statement:

The South Dakota Board of Nursing affirms that the performance of dermatologic and medical aesthetic services may be performed by a licensed registered nurse (RN) and licensed practical nurse (LPN) as a part of a medically prescribed plan of care, pursuant to SDCL [36-9-3](#), [36-9-4](#), and ARSD § [20:48:04:01](#).

The RN or LPN must exercise clinical judgment and is personally responsible and accountable for actions, competence, decisions, and behavior in the course of the nurse's practice. A nurse does not avoid this responsibility by accepting the orders or directions of another person (ARSD subdivision [20:48:04:01\(2\)](#)).

The healthcare industry is continually evolving; nurses and employers are encouraged to use the Board's [Scope of Practice Decision-Making Framework](#) to determine if a specific intervention, or activity may be performed by a licensed nurse.

The South Dakota Board of Nursing determined that the performance of non-medical aesthetic (esthetic) and cosmetic services are not considered the practice of nursing; for example: body piercings, electrolysis, eyelash extensions, permanent make-up, and tattoos. Hours worked performing non-medical aesthetic (esthetic) and cosmetic services may not be used for the renewal of a South Dakota nursing license. If a nurse chooses to perform these procedures the nurse should be registered or licensed by the appropriate state regulatory board.

Guidelines:

A. Medical Provider Role:

An authorized medical provider, who is licensed as a physician, certified nurse practitioner (CNP), or physician's assistant, acting within the licensee's South Dakota scope of practice, is expected to:

1. Review the client's medical history and conduct a medical assessment, for each episode of care, to diagnose a client for the appropriateness of the dermatologic or medical aesthetic procedure(s).
 - An episode of care is defined as a series of unchanging treatments or procedures for a specific dermatologic or medical aesthetic service during an established period of time as outlined in a medical order or protocol;
 - The assessment may be performed in-person or via telehealth. Telehealth consults should be conducted in accordance with [SDCL 34-52](#);
2. Develop a dermatologic and medical aesthetic services treatment plan; and
3. Prior to delegating a procedure or the administration of a drug or substance to a licensed nurse, write a medical order as outlined in Section B.



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B. Medical Order:

A medical order or a protocol must be in place for each procedure or intervention. A protocol must meet the following requirements:

1. Be in writing, dated, and signed by the authorized medical provider;
2. Be reviewed annually and updated according to accepted medical practice standards;
3. Include requirements for the RN or LPN including level of licensure, clinical practice experience, additional education, and training;
4. Specify level of supervision required;
5. Specify circumstances on when to consult with the medical provider; and
6. Specify contraindications for the performance of the treatment or procedure.

C. RN Role:

South Dakota law does not allow an RN to engage in acts that require medical judgment or medical diagnosis; nor does state law allow an RN to prescribe medications or perform dermatologic or medical aesthetic procedures without a medical order or protocol, including elective services provided at the request of a client in a non-traditional setting.

An RN may perform dermatologic or medical aesthetic procedures according to agency policy, if:

- The nurse has completed additional education and has demonstrated competence to perform the procedure as described in Section E;
- An authorized medical provider has performed an assessment as described in Section A;
- The nurse has a medical order or protocol as described in Section B; and
- The nurse has performed a nursing assessment to determine if the client meets the requirements outlined in the medical order or protocol.

Procedures that may be performed by an RN:

- Chemical peels (non-invasive);
- Destruction of fat treatments using cold heat (non-invasive), example: Coolsculpting®;
- Injectable treatments using FDA approved products:
 - Neuromodulators (botulinum toxin), example: Botox®;
 - Dermal Fillers (temporary), examples: Restylane®, Juvederm®;
- Light-based treatments (non-laser, non-ablative);
- Microdermabrasion;
- Microneedling; and
- Sclerotherapy of superficial veins.

D. LPN Role:

South Dakota law does not allow an LPN to engage in acts that require medical judgment or medical diagnosis; nor does state law allow an LPN to prescribe medications or perform dermatologic or medical aesthetic procedures without a medical order or protocol, including elective services provided at the request of a client in a non-traditional setting.

An LPN may perform dermatologic or medical aesthetic procedures according to agency policy, if:

- The nurse has completed additional education and has demonstrated competence to perform the procedure as described in Section E;
- An authorized medical provider has performed an assessment as described in Section A;
- The nurse has a medical order or protocol as described in Section B;
- The nurse has performed a nursing assessment to determine if the client meets the requirements outlined in the medical order or protocol; and
- The nurse is appropriately supervised in accordance with SDCL [36-9-4](#) and ARSD § [20:48:04:01.03](#).



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Procedures that may be performed by an LPN:

- Chemical peels (non-invasive);
- Destruction of fat treatments using cold heat (non-invasive), example: Coolsculpting®;
- Injectable neuromodulator (botulinum toxin) treatments, using FDA approved products, example: Botox®;
- Light-based treatments (non-laser, non-ablative);
- Microdermabrasion; and
- Microneedling (maximum depth <0.5 mm).

E. Education and Training:

Each nurse should obtain educational preparation, receive supervised clinical practice experience, and demonstrate clinical competency to perform the dermatological or medical aesthetic procedures in a safe and effective manner and according to accepted standards of practice. Documentation on educational preparation should be readily available upon request; and include:

1. Anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology of integumentary system and supporting structures specific to procedure performed;
2. Proper client selection and history taking, nursing assessment parameters, and wound healing principles;
3. Safe use of product, device, equipment; indications/contraindications, and side effects of treatment;
4. Pharmacology basics, including drug action/interactions, indications/contraindications, and side effects of treatment; and
5. Management of emergencies.

F. Practice Setting Expectations:

1. Maintain written policies relating to the procedures that will be performed that are consistent with applicable standards of practice and evidence-based practice;
2. Maintain documentation on:
 - a. Client assessments and medical history data;
 - b. Education provided to the client on the prescribed dermatological or medical aesthetic procedures;
 - c. Client's Informed consent for procedure(s);
 - d. Specific procedures performed and client response to procedure;
3. Have in place a method to evaluate initial and continuing competence of providers for services provided;
4. Have in place an emergency management plan that includes when to refer or consult with the authorized medical provider;
5. Have in place infection control measures that are consistent with applicable standards; and
6. Follow state or federal requirements for the ordering and procurement of medications, solutions, or agents. Substances must be obtained from a South Dakota licensed wholesale drug distributor or a South Dakota licensed 503B outsourcing facility.

Registration of Nursing Corporation

CNPs or RNs who own a business to provide dermatologic or medical aesthetic services must register the business with the Board of Nursing: [Nursing Corporation Registration](#).

Laser Use

The South Dakota Board of Medical and Osteopathic Examiner's determined that only physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants may use lasers. [Declaratory Ruling](#)



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2. International Society of Plastic and Aesthetic Nurses (ISPAN) (2024). *Position Statements*. Retrieved from <https://ispan.org/>.
3. Kentucky Board of Nursing (2023). *Role of Nurses in Cosmetic and Dermatological Procedures*. Retrieved from <https://kbn.ky.gov/KBN%20Documents/aos35-cosmetic-and-dermatological-procedures-by-nurses.pdf>.
4. Nebraska Board of Nursing (2021). *Aesthetic Nursing*. Retrieved from <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Documents/AestheticNursing.pdf>.
5. North Carolina Board of Nursing (2022). *Cosmetic/Aesthetic Dermatological Procedures*. Retrieved from <https://www.ncbon.com/myfiles/downloads/board%20information/laws-rules/position-statements/ps-cosmetic-aesthetic-dermatological-procedures.pdf>
6. North Dakota Board of Nursing (2023). *Practice Guidance: Role of the Licensed Nurse in Aesthetic Practices*. Retrieved from https://www.ndbon.org/Practice/PracticeGuidance/Aesthetic_Practices.asp.
7. *Scope of Practice Decision-Making Framework* (2018). Retrieved from <https://sdbon.org/userfiles/files/ScopeofPractice3.pdf>.

Applicable South Dakota Laws, Rules, and Declaratory Ruling

1. [SDCL 34-52. Telehealth utilization by health care professionals](#)
2. [SDCL 36-9-3. Practice of registered nurse](#)
3. [SDCL 36-9-4. Practice of licensed practical nurse](#)
4. [SDCL 36-9-4.1. Additional functions after special training of licensed practical nurse](#)
5. [SDCL 36-9A. Certified Nurse Practitioners and Certified Nurse Midwives](#)
6. [SDCL 36-15. Cosmetologists, estheticians, nail technicians, and salons.](#)
7. [ARSD 20:48:01. Definitions](#)
8. [ARSD 20:48:04:01. Standards of nursing practice-registered nurse and licensed practical nurse](#)
9. [ARSD 20:48:04:01.03. Supervision of a licensed practical nurse](#)
10. [Declaratory Ruling on Laser Delegation: SD Board of Medical and Osteopathic Examiners.](#)