



Advisory Opinion #39

FORMULATED: January 24, 2002

REVISED: November 2018, October 2017, March 2011, May 2006

REVIEWED: April 2021, July 2007, July 2005, November 2003

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

The State Board of Nursing for South Carolina has determined that it is within the scope of practice for Registered Nurses (RN) 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 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 and competency demonstration for these procedures is ongoing and documented.

The injection of telangiectasis (“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 and competency demonstration 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 the licensed nurse (both the RN and Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)) as additional acts 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 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.

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