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An advisory opinion adopted by AZBN is an interpretation of what the law requires. While an advisory opinion is not law, it is more than a recommendation. In other words, an advisory opinion is an official opinion of AZBN regarding the practice of nursing as it relates to the functions of nursing. Facility policies may restrict practice further in their setting and/or require additional expectations related to competency, validation, training, and supervision to assure the safety of their patient population and or decrease risk.

OPINION: DERMATOLOGICAL PROCEDURES
PERFORMED BY REGISTERED NURSES
APPROVED DATE: 1/05
REVISED DATE:
ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:
SCOPE OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE

ADVISORY OPINION DERMATOLOGICAL PROCEDURES PERFORMED BY REGISTERED NURSES

STATEMENT OF SCOPE

It is within the Scope of Practice of a Registered Nurse (RN) to perform dermatological procedures under the supervision of a licensed care provider who possesses specific knowledge, skills and abilities in dermatological procedures, such as the following, on the appropriate client population:

- Visual sclerotherapy (see separate ASBN advisory opinion)
- LASER therapy for cutaneous procedures (see separate ASBN advisory opinion)
- Botox ® (or similar approved products) injections for cosmetic purposes
- Microdermabrasion
- Chemical peels
- Dermal fillers
- Mesotherapy
- Micropigmentation

The following criteria must be met:

The RN is under the supervision of a licensed care provider who has expertise in performing dermatological/cosmetic procedures.

I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- A. Written policy and approved protocols are maintained by the employer/agency.
- B. Only RNs who have satisfactorily completed a formal instructional program and have supervised clinical practice are allowed to perform the procedure(s).
- C. Documentation of satisfactorily completion of the instructional program and clinical requirements, as well as ongoing competency and supervised clinical practice is on file with the employer/agency.

II. COURSE OF INSTRUCTION

- A. Anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, alteration of the system involved, and terminology of the integumentary system and supporting structures including different skin classifications appropriate for the individual procedure(s).
- B. Indications, proper client selection, history taking, physical assessment parameters, and contraindications for treatment(s) given alone or in combination with one another.
- C. Alternative treatment options including “no” treatment.
- D. Complications and management of potential side effects or adverse reactions of each procedure, treatment and administered agents.
- E. Pharmacology of all administered pharmacological agents.
- F. Techniques of each individual dermatological procedure and proper selection, maintenance, and utilization of equipment.
- G. Infection control measures and safety precautions.
- H. Nursing care responsibilities to include, but not limited to:
 - 1. Nursing process
 - 2. Case management of patients
 - 3. Patient teaching pre and post-procedure
 - 4. Obtaining informed consent
 - 5. Patient monitoring during all phases of treatment
 - 6. Maintaining patient confidentiality

III. RATIONALE

The guiding principle for this opinion is that it is recognized that dermatological and/or cosmetic procedures can be safely performed by a registered nurse under the supervision of a properly trained licensed care provider and with specialized training, skills, ongoing training, and knowledge.

REFERENCES *(not an all-inclusive list)*

Arizona State Board of Nursing Advisory Opinion delineating the RN’s role in assessing patient/client conditions (Updated 2003).

Arizona State Board of Nursing Advisory Opinion delineating the RN’s role in dual professions (Updates 2002).

Baumann, L. (2002). *Cosmetic Dermatology: Principles and Practice*. New York: McGraw-Hill Companies.

California State Board of Nursing Advisory Opinion delineating the RN’s role in performing LASER therapy (Updated 2002).

California State Board of Nursing Advisory Opinion delineating the RN’s role in administration of Botox® (Updated 2002).

Dermatology Nurses’ Association (2002). *Dermatology nursing scope and standards of practice*. Pittman, NJ: Author. Retrieved on August 16, 2004 and November 18,2004 from www.dnanurse.org/resources/scope_and_standards.pdf

Hill, M. J. (Ed.) (2003). *Dermatology nursing essentials* (2nd Ed.). Pittman, NJ: Author.

Montana State Board of Nursing Declaratory Ruling delineating the RN's role in Microdermabrasion (Updated 2001).

Nebraska State Board of Nursing Advisory Opinion delineating the RN's role in administration of collagen (Updated 2000).

Nebraska State Board of Nursing Advisory Opinion delineating the RN's role in performing sclerotherapy (Updated 2000).

Nevada State Board of Nursing Advisory Opinion delineating the RN's role in performing LASER, Botox®, chemical peels, and dermabrasion (Updated 2003).

North Dakota State Board of Nursing Advisory Opinion delineating the RN's role in LASER use for hair removal (Updated 2003).

South Carolina State Board of Nursing Advisory Opinion delineating the RN's role in performing procedures such as LASER hair removal, spider vein removal, microdermabrasion, or chemical peels (Updated 2002).

Texas State Board of Nursing Position Statement delineating the RN's role in the use of LASERS (Updated 2004).

Nurse Practice Act R4-19-101, "Supervision" means the direction and periodic consultation provided to an individual to whom a nursing task or patient care activity is delegated.