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Board of Cosmetology

Position Statement: Esthetic Use of Lasers

Athletic Trainers

Barbers

Body Piercing
Technicians

Denturists

Direct Entry
Midwives

Electrologists

Environmental
Health Specialists

Estheticians

Hair Designers

Hearing Aid
Specialists

Nail Technicians

Permanent Color
Technicians

Respiratory
Therapists

Tattoo Artists

Waste Water
Specialists

Board of Athletic
Trainers

Board of
Cosmetology

Board of Direct Entry
Midwifery

Board of Denture
Technology

Environmental
Health Registration
Board

Respiratory
Therapist Licensing
Board

Advisory Council on
Hearing Aids

Advisory Council for
Electrologists,
Permanent Color
Technicians & Tattoo
Artists

Esthetic Use of Lasers Requires Proper Training, Safety Measures and Must Be in Scope of Practice

The Oregon Health Licensing Agency (OHLA) and the Board of Cosmetology have adopted the following position statement to clarify their position on the regulation of laser use by estheticians and to reinforce public safety:

Lasers and light-based devices such as intense pulse light (IPL) may be used by estheticians but only for services within the esthetics scope of practice, which is defined in Oregon Revised Statutes 690.005(7) as “...*skin care practices performed on the human body for the purpose of keeping the skin healthy and attractive and not for medical diagnosis or treatment of disease or physical or mental ailments.*” The statutory definition also allows for “...*the temporary removal of hair.*”

The use of lasers and light-based devices is currently limited to **laser hair removal** and any other procedure that is **non-ablative** and **non-invasive**. We point to the Oregon Medical Board’s statement regarding the surgical use of lasers (attached). However, we will be taking a closer look at these terms and how they relate to esthetics practice – such as:

- Should *ablation* (destruction) of the surface level of skin, which is composed mainly of dead skin cells, be permitted? Regulations currently allow destruction of these cells through other mechanical or chemical means, such as microdermabrasion and facial peels.
- Should procedures which bypass the outer skin layers, usually by IPL, and heat, *but do not destroy*, the lower dermal layers, be considered *invasive*? As has been stated before, a hot wet towel pressed against the skin can heat the dermal layers.

As with any advanced procedure, evidence of training in the safe and effective use of lasers must be provided upon request to OHLA. Training by the device manufacturer is acceptable as long as it is documented.

OHLA and the Board of Cosmetology are currently developing laser safety standards that may be required in the future. For more information, please visit www.oregon.gov/OHLA/COS.

OHLA and the Board of Cosmetology adopted this position statement on Monday, January 28, 2008.

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