Colorado: the rules for aesthetic practice

What Colorado's laws and boards say about who may do aesthetic treatments, who must supervise them, and who can own the practice.

Nurse practitioners: Full Practice Authority

Nurse practitioners

Full (AANP); the Board of Nursing alone regulates NPs. Prescribing (Schedules II-V within the APRN's role and population focus) starts as provisional authority after 3 years of clinical work experience; the APRN must finish 750 hours under a written mentorship agreement with a Colorado physician or a Colorado APRN with full prescriptive authority within 3 years, then attests for full prescriptive authority (3 CCR 716-1, Chapter 15). NPs must carry malpractice insurance of at least $500,000 per claim and $1,500,000 in aggregate.

Delegation to unlicensed staff

Under the Medical Board's Rule 800, physicians (and PAs within their scope) may delegate medical-aesthetic services, which include Class IIIb and higher lasers, radio-frequency devices, IPL and any injection, to an unlicensed person after checking training and observing them over the shoulder. The physician is normally on the premises; with written procedure and emergency protocols the physician may be off site but must be in Colorado and able to attend promptly, must check quality on site at least every 2 weeks, and reviews and initials every record within 14 days. A written delegation agreement is available to the public on site. Rule 800 doesn't cover APRNs delegating; check with the Board of Nursing before an APRN delegates to unlicensed staff.

Disclosures (HB25-1024, since August 6, 2025)

A physician or APRN who delegates medical-aesthetic services to an unlicensed person must post a highly visible notice on site (name, license number, contact details, the board's online complaint address), put a delegation notice with name and license number on the unlicensed person's website and all advertising, and have each patient sign a consent form with the same details, kept at least 7 years (C.R.S. 12-240-147, 12-255-137). Facilities regulated under Title 25 are exempt.

Who can own the practice

Colorado law says corporations shall not practice medicine. A medical professional service corporation is owned by physicians, with PAs allowed only as a minority (C.R.S. §12-240-138), and a physician may not practice as the employee, agent or partner of an unlicensed person or of any corporation other than a medical PSC, apart from exceptions such as hospitals (§12-240-121(1)(g)). Nurses and NPs can't own a medical PSC. HB26-1249, which would have allowed nurse co-owners in PA-led aesthetics corporations, died in committee on March 25, 2026.

The biggest risk in Colorado. Delegating to unlicensed staff without the Rule 800 agreement, protocols and record review, or without the HB25-1024 notices and signed consent.

Check it with your boards: Colorado Board of Nursing - dpo.colorado.gov/Nursing/LawsRulesPolicies and Colorado Medical Board - dpo.colorado.gov/Medical. Checked November 3, 2026. Rules change, so read the current rule on the board's own site before you act.

Ask S.A.G.E. next. S.A.G.E., our AI practice advisor, answers from this same Colorado reference, free in your TMAA account, which you can set up at go.medicalaestheticsassociation.com/start-here. Try:

1. I'm an RN in Colorado. What has to be in place before I offer injectables?
2. What must my medical director agreement cover in Colorado?
3. What can an esthetician do in Colorado, and what needs an order?

S.A.G.E. is not legal advice. For a binding answer, talk to a healthcare attorney in your state.