District of Columbia: the rules for aesthetic practice

What District of Columbia'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). NPs evaluate, diagnose and prescribe without a collaborative agreement; the Board of Nursing alone regulates NP licensure (D.C. Code §3-1202.04; 17 DCMR §5999). 15 CE hours every 2 years.

Delegating to RNs, estheticians and staff

No DC board guidance on cosmetic injections or lasers by RNs or estheticians was checked in November 2026. Ask the Board of Nursing or the Board of Medicine before delegating.

Who can own the practice

Only people licensed for the same professional service may own a D.C. professional corporation, and its directors and officers must be licensed too (D.C. Code §29-502, §29-508). The chapter doesn't govern other business forms that may lawfully provide professional services (§29-503). Whether a business owned by a non-physician may employ or contract physicians is not settled: no statute, board ruling or court decision on it was found. Confirm the entity type with a DC healthcare attorney.

The biggest risk in District of Columbia. Delegating cosmetic procedures without written DC board guidance; check with the boards first.

Check it with your boards: DC Board of Nursing - dchealth.dc.gov/node/149382 and DC Board of Medicine - dchealth.dc.gov/service/bomed-policies. 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 District of Columbia reference, free in your TMAA account, which you can set up at go.medicalaestheticsassociation.com/start-here. Try:

1. I'm an RN in District of Columbia. What has to be in place before I offer injectables?
2. What must my medical director agreement cover in District of Columbia?
3. What can an esthetician do in District of Columbia, 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.