Maryland: the rules for aesthetic practice

What Maryland'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). Certified NPs evaluate, diagnose and prescribe without a collaborative agreement; the Board of Nursing alone regulates NP licensure (Health Occ. §8-101, §8-202). An applicant who has never been certified as an NP by Maryland or any other board names a mentor (a certified NP or a physician) on the application, and the mentor consults and collaborates with the new NP for 18 months from the date the Board receives the application (§8-302.1(d)). There is no separate application for independent practice. NPs practice to the standards of their national certifying body, and certification renews every 2 years.

Physician cosmetic procedures

Under the Board of Physicians' rule (COMAR 10.32.09), cosmetic medical devices include lasers, light and IPL devices, radiofrequency, electric pulse and sound wave devices, and devices that inject or insert substances into the skin. The physician must hold a Maryland license and be trained in each procedure and device (vendor training alone doesn't count). The physician may hand a procedure only to a PA, or to another health care provider licensed under the Health Occupations Article whose own board puts it in their scope, after that person's training. The physician personally does the first assessment, writes the treatment plan, gets informed consent, and is on site whenever a non-physician performs the procedure (a Board-approved PA agreement can allow immediately available supervision instead).

Delegation by NPs

No Board of Nursing guidance on cosmetic procedures by RNs or others under an NP was checked in November 2026. Ask the Board of Nursing before delegating.

Who can own the practice

In Maryland, a corporation formed to practice a profession must be a professional corporation (with a few exceptions), related professions may combine, and only people licensed for a service it provides may own stock (Md. Code, Corps. & Ass'ns §5-102, §5-109). 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 Maryland healthcare attorney.

The biggest risk in Maryland. Physician-led med spas where non-physicians do laser or injectable work without the physician on site, or without the physician's own first assessment.

Check it with your boards: Maryland Board of Nursing - mbon.maryland.gov and Maryland Board of Physicians - mbp.state.md.us. 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 Maryland reference, free in your TMAA account, which you can set up at go.medicalaestheticsassociation.com/start-here. Try:

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