Montana: the rules for aesthetic practice

What Montana'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 or physician supervision; the Board of Nursing alone regulates NP licensure (MCA 37-8-202; ARM 24.159.1406). Controlled-substance details weren't confirmed in November 2026.

Delegating to RNs, estheticians and staff

The Board of Nursing's medical spa FAQ treats laser hair removal as a medical procedure that a qualified provider must perform within their scope. Injectables such as Botox must be prescribed, and a qualified provider must perform or supervise them. RNs and LPNs may inject prescribed medications with training and supervision but may not diagnose or prescribe. A nurse who delegates a task stays accountable for it (ARM 24.159.1611).

Esthetician space

Where cosmetologists or estheticians work, that area must be licensed as a salon or shop, and medical procedures must be separated from it by a full-length partition.

Who can own the practice

Montana professional corporations may combine professions only where the licensing laws and rules allow, and only people licensed for a service the corporation provides may own shares (MCA 35-4-205, 35-4-301). The Board of Nursing says it does not prohibit nurses from owning a medical spa. 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 Montana healthcare attorney.

The biggest risk in Montana. Letting RNs inject without a prescription from a qualified provider, and running esthetician services in the same unpartitioned space as medical procedures.

Check it with your boards: Montana Board of Nursing - boards.bsd.dli.mt.gov/nursing and Montana Board of Medical Examiners - boards.bsd.dli.mt.gov/medical-examiners. 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 Montana reference, free in your TMAA account, which you can set up at go.medicalaestheticsassociation.com/start-here. Try:

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