New Jersey: the rules for aesthetic practice

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

Nurse practitioners: Reduced Practice (aesthetics always needs a joint protocol)

Nurse practitioners

Reduced (AANP). APNs order medications and devices under a joint protocol with a collaborating physician (N.J.S.A. 45:11-49). Since March 30, 2026 (P.L.2026, c.6), an APN with more than 5,000 hours in a family/lifespan, adult-gerontology, pediatrics, women's health or behavioral health role may practice without a joint protocol, but ONLY while providing primary or behavioral health care. The exception does not cover anyone providing elective aesthetic or cosmetic services or general obstetrics.

Delegating to RNs, estheticians and staff

No New Jersey board statement on cosmetic injections was checked in November 2026. Ask the Board of Nursing before delegating.

For med spas

An APN doing aesthetic or cosmetic work in New Jersey needs a joint protocol with a collaborating physician, whatever their hours. APNs who went without one under Executive Order No. 13 (2026) had a 6- or 12-month transition.

Who can own the practice

YES. Under the Board of Medical Examiners rule, a partnership, professional association or LLC must be made up only of licensed health care professionals providing the same or a closely allied service (nursing is closely allied). A general business corporation may only be a limited partner for non-professional services such as billing and office management, and the licensee keeps control of medical policies and fees. A physician can't be employed by someone with a more limited license (N.J.A.C. 13:35-6.16).

The biggest risk in New Jersey. Assuming the 2026 law frees aesthetic APNs from the joint protocol. It excludes elective aesthetic and cosmetic services by name.

Check it with your boards: NJ Board of Nursing - njconsumeraffairs.gov/nur/Pages/Statutes-and-Regulations.aspx and NJ Board of Medical Examiners - njconsumeraffairs.gov/bme/Pages/default.aspx. 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 New Jersey reference, free in your TMAA account, which you can set up at go.medicalaestheticsassociation.com/start-here. Try:

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