New Mexico: the rules for aesthetic practice

What New Mexico'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). CNPs evaluate, diagnose and prescribe without a collaborative agreement; the Board of Nursing alone regulates NP licensure (NMSA 1978 §§61-3-10, 61-3-23.2). Controlled-substance details weren't confirmed in November 2026.

Clinical supervisor

Under the Board of Nursing's aesthetic facility rule (16.12.14 NMAC, effective May 21, 2024), every aesthetic facility must have a clinical supervisor who is a licensed independent practitioner; a qualified APRN can fill the role, but RNs and LPNs can't. The supervisor approves written protocols, keeps emergency supplies and makes sure staff are trained. The Medical Board's policy says a medical director must be an MD or DO who is present or readily available; the two boards' documents differ, so ask both before opening an NP-led med spa.

Delegating to RNs, estheticians and staff

RNs may do aesthetic procedures only when delegated and under indirect supervision (supervisor nearby and on call). LPNs need the supervisor on site and may not inject. No aesthetic procedure may go to anyone without a healthcare license. Under the Medical Board's policy, Botox, fillers, microneedling and peels must be done by a licensed medical provider, never estheticians or medical assistants; lasers and IPL may go only to device-certified medical assistants under direct physician supervision; only physicians, PAs and APRNs may place IVs.

Exam first

Before any aesthetic procedure, an APRN or other independent practitioner examines the patient face to face (telehealth allowed), diagnoses and writes a treatment plan with doses, device settings and sites, and re-examines at least every 12 months. This can never be delegated.

Who can own the practice

The Medical Board's medical spa policy (revised September 2025) says New Mexico allows non-physician ownership of med spas, but medical procedures must be overseen by a supervising physician or qualified advanced provider. Confirm the entity type with a New Mexico healthcare attorney.

The biggest risk in New Mexico. Treating without a documented face-to-face exam and treatment plan, LPNs or estheticians injecting, and running a med spa without a named clinical supervisor.

Check it with your boards: New Mexico Board of Nursing - bon.nm.gov and New Mexico Medical Board - nmmb.state.nm.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 New Mexico 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 Mexico. What has to be in place before I offer injectables?
2. What must my medical director agreement cover in New Mexico?
3. What can an esthetician do in New Mexico, 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.