North Dakota: the rules for aesthetic practice

What North Dakota'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 (NDCC 43-12.1; NDAC 54-05-03.1). NPs with prescriptive authority need 15 pharmacology CE hours every 2 years. Controlled-substance details weren't confirmed in November 2026.

Delegating to RNs, estheticians and staff

The Board of Nursing's aesthetic practice guidance (revised 2023) lets a trained, competent RN inject FDA-approved aesthetic agents only under a prescribed treatment plan. A physician, PA or APRN with prescriptive authority must first do and document a history and physical (telehealth is fine) and write a client-specific plan, and must reassess before any change in product, dose, area or treatment type. RNs can't diagnose, prescribe or dispense, and APRNs may not hand prescribing to RNs or LPNs. The guidance doesn't cover LPNs.

Advanced estheticians

Since January 1, 2026, North Dakota licenses advanced estheticians (HB 1126, 2025) for advanced peels, microneedling and non-ablative laser and light work such as hair removal. Ablative procedures are barred, the Board of Cosmetology may require physician or APRN supervision for some services, and advanced work outside a licensed salon needs a supervising medical professional.

Who can own the practice

A North Dakota professional organization (PC, PLLC or PLLP) provides one type of service, or a combination the licensing laws of each profession specifically authorize, and only licensees of the same service may own it (N.D.C.C. §10-31-04, §10-31-07). 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 North Dakota healthcare attorney.

The biggest risk in North Dakota. RNs injecting without a documented prescriber exam and written plan for that client, and treating advanced estheticians as medical staff.

Check it with your boards: North Dakota Board of Nursing - ndbon.org and North Dakota Board of Medicine - ndbom.org. 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 North Dakota reference, free in your TMAA account, which you can set up at go.medicalaestheticsassociation.com/start-here. Try:

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