Ohio: the rules for aesthetic practice

What Ohio'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

Nurse practitioners

Reduced (AANP). APRNs practice under a written standard care arrangement (SCA) with each collaborating physician, who must be authorized in Ohio and in the same or a similar specialty (ORC 4723.431). The SCA covers referral criteria, consultation, coverage for absences, dispute resolution and death certificates; the employer keeps a copy; the Board doesn't pre-approve it but may review it. Report each collaborating physician to the Board within 30 days of starting, and changes within 30 days. A physician may collaborate with no more than 5 nurses at a time for prescribing. If the physician ends the SCA, the APRN may keep practicing under it for up to 120 days. Schedule II has patient and setting limits and isn't allowed in convenience care clinics.

Lasers

A physician may delegate vascular and non-ablative dermatologic laser procedures only to a PA or an RN or LPN, after seeing the patient before the first treatment and again before treatment continues; RNs and LPNs need the physician on site at all times, at most 2 at once, and training of 8 hours plus 15 observed and 20 supervised procedures per procedure type (OAC 4731-18-03). Laser hair removal may be delegated to a PA, an RN or LPN, or a licensed laser hair removal professional (cosmetic therapy training and a certification exam), with the same physician evaluations and on-site supervision, off site only for established patients after a 40-hour (nurse) or 50-hour (professional) course; at most 5 at a time (ORC 4731.33). Estheticians are not on either list.

IV therapy

Under the boards' May 15, 2025 joint statement, a physician, PA or APRN must personally evaluate and diagnose each patient and make the treatment recommendation (telehealth allowed at the same standard of care); protocols or standing orders for IV medications are not authorized; RNs give IVs only on a valid order, and LPNs may not give IV solutions at a retail IV clinic. Mixing IV bags is compounding and needs a terminal distributor of dangerous drugs license with a responsible person who is actually present.

Who can own the practice

Since 1994 an ordinary Ohio corporation may be formed to practice a profession (ORC 1701.03(B)), and physicians may practice through such a corporation, an LLC, a partnership or a professional association, including one shared with registered nurses (APRNs included), pharmacists and others (ORC 4731.226). A business that combines these professions may not control a licensee's clinical judgment (1701.03(D)), and the Medical, Nursing and Pharmacy boards say no business or owner may control how licensees provide care. Confirm the entity type with an Ohio healthcare attorney.

The biggest risk in Ohio. Lasers run by staff without the physician's before-and-after exams and on-site supervision, and IV menus run on standing orders.

Check it with your boards: Ohio Board of Nursing - nursing.ohio.gov and State Medical Board of Ohio - med.ohio.gov. 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 Ohio reference, free in your TMAA account, which you can set up at go.medicalaestheticsassociation.com/start-here. Try:

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