Pennsylvania: the rules for aesthetic practice

What Pennsylvania'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). Every CRNP keeps a career-long written collaborative agreement with one or more physicians. A CRNP approved to prescribe also keeps a prescriptive authority collaborative agreement naming the collaborating physician and at least one substitute physician who covers when the collaborator is unavailable (49 Pa. Code §21.285). The full practice bill (SB 25, 2025-2026) has not left committee.

Prescriptive agreement

It lists the CRNP's specialty, the drug categories, when and how often the collaborating physician personally sees patients, and the CRNP's liability coverage; it is reviewed at least every 2 years, kept at the primary practice site, shown to any pharmacist who asks, and filed with the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs. The CRNP tells the Board in writing whenever it changes or ends.

Delegating to RNs, estheticians and staff

Under the Board of Medicine's rule, a physician may delegate a medical service (such as a cosmetic injection) to a trained health care practitioner or technician only if it fits accepted medical practice, the delegatee is trained and competent, it creates no undue risk for that patient, the patient is told and doesn't object, and the physician takes responsibility and stays available as the procedure requires (49 Pa. Code §18.402). A physician can't delegate what they aren't trained to do. No Pennsylvania rule specific to cosmetic injections or lasers was checked in November 2026.

Who can own the practice

Pennsylvania professional corporations are owned by licensed persons unless a profession's own rules say otherwise, combine professions only where allowed, and the law doesn't govern professional services by a corporation that isn't a professional corporation (15 Pa.C.S. §2923, §2903, §2901(b)). 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 and who may serve as medical director with a Pennsylvania healthcare attorney.

The biggest risk in Pennsylvania. Prescribing without a current prescriptive authority agreement that names a substitute physician and is on file.

Check it with your boards: PA State Board of Nursing - pa.gov/agencies/dos/department-and-offices/bpoa/boards-commissions/nursing/acts-laws-and-regulations and PA State Board of Medicine - pa.gov/agencies/dos/department-and-offices/bpoa/boards-commissions/medicine/announcements. 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 Pennsylvania reference, free in your TMAA account, which you can set up at go.medicalaestheticsassociation.com/start-here. Try:

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