Tennessee: the rules for aesthetic practice

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

Nurse practitioners: Restricted Practice

Nurse practitioners

Restricted (AANP). NPs practice under a supervising physician with jointly developed, signed protocols kept at the practice site and reviewed every 2 years; the physician files a Notice and Formulary with the Board. NPs can't prescribe Schedule II-IV drugs unless a formulary authorizes it or the physician approves before the first prescription, and Schedule II and III opioids have supply limits.

Medical director or supervising physician

The supervising physician personally reviews at least 20% of the NP's charts every 30 days (some charts, such as controlled-substance prescriptions, within 10 business days) and visits any remote site at least once every 30 days (Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 0880-06-.02). There is no fixed limit on the number of NPs per physician.

Med spa registry

Any entity offering cosmetic medical services (anything using a material, chemical, device or energy that alters or can alter living tissue for appearance) registers with the Board of Medical Examiners before operating and renews every 12 months; the medical director or supervising physician must be an MD or DO with an active Tennessee license and practice. Operating unregistered is unprofessional conduct by that physician (TCA 63-6-105; rule 0880-02-.24).

Signage and ads

The medical spa shows the medical director's name and whether that physician is board certified or board eligible (ABMS, AOA or an equivalent board), or plainly that they are not, on site AND in all media and advertising, including the website (TCA 63-1-153).

Who can own the practice

Attorney General Opinion 07-116 (2007) says an NP, RN or PA may not own a professional corporation or PLLC that provides medical services, and a physician may not be an NP's or RN's employee just to supervise; an actively practicing physician may be an independent contractor to an NP or PA (not to an RN). It adds that an NP might own a practice where medical services are given under a physician's supervision, control and responsibility (TCA 63-6-204(b)). Confirm the entity type and ownership with a Tennessee healthcare attorney.

The biggest risk in Tennessee. Operating before the medical spa is registered, or ads and a website that leave out the medical director's certification status.

Check it with your boards: Tennessee Board of Nursing - tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/nursing-board/nursing-board/statutes-and-rules.html and Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners - tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/me-board.html. 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 Tennessee reference, free in your TMAA account, which you can set up at go.medicalaestheticsassociation.com/start-here. Try:

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