Virginia: the rules for aesthetic practice

What Virginia'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 (practice without an agreement after 3 years)

Nurse practitioners

Restricted (AANP). NPs practice under a written or electronic practice agreement with at least one patient care team physician, covering periodic health record review (site visits optional) at a frequency they set and input from other providers for complex cases, emergencies and referrals; the NP keeps evidence of it for the Boards. After the equivalent of 3 years of full-time clinical experience under a practice agreement (5,400 hours at 1,800 a year) and an attestation from the patient care team physician, the Boards issue a license for practice without an agreement (Va. Code §54.1-2957; 18VAC90-30-86). Other evidence is accepted if an attestation can't be obtained. Autonomous NPs practice within their training, consult as patients need, and keep a referral plan for complex cases and emergencies.

Delegating to RNs, estheticians and staff

No Virginia board guidance on cosmetic procedures by nurses or estheticians was checked in November 2026. Ask the Board of Nursing or Board of Medicine before delegating.

Who can own the practice

Virginia treats physicians and APRNs as the same professional service for professional corporations and PLLCs, so APRNs may own one alone or with physicians (Va. Code §13.1-543, §13.1-1102). 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 any medical director need with a Virginia healthcare attorney.

The biggest risk in Virginia. Practicing without a practice agreement before the Boards issue the autonomous designation.

Check it with your boards: Virginia Board of Nursing - dhp.virginia.gov/Boards/Nursing/PractitionerResources/LawsRegulations and Virginia Board of Medicine - dhp.virginia.gov/Boards/Medicine. 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 Virginia reference, free in your TMAA account, which you can set up at go.medicalaestheticsassociation.com/start-here. Try:

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