West Virginia: the rules for aesthetic practice

What West Virginia'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 prescribe under a collaborative agreement with a physician, filed with the Board of Registered Nurses. After at least three documented years in that relationship, and while in good standing, an APRN may apply to the Board to prescribe without one (W. Va. Code §30-7-15b(e)); the Board can require an agreement again through a complaint. APRNs may not prescribe Schedule I drugs, and Schedule II narcotics are limited to a three-day supply (§30-7-15a). The Board of Registered Nurses alone regulates NP licensure. 24 CE hours every 2 years.

Delegating to RNs, estheticians and staff

In 2018 the RN Board's Practice Committee recommended that RNs may do non-ablative laser hair removal and Botox only when ordered by a prescriber and supervised by a qualified physician or APRN, using FDA-approved products; the final Board response wasn't confirmed in November 2026. Ask the Board before delegating anything else, including fillers. No West Virginia guidance on estheticians was checked.

Who can own the practice

The Board of Medicine says the Medical Practice Act prohibits the corporate practice of medicine (position statement, 2014, re-adopted 2018). A corporation may practice medicine only with the Board's certificate of authorization, every shareholder must be a licensed physician, podiatrist or PA, and the corporation must stop practicing if shares go to someone unlicensed (W. Va. Code §30-3-15). Nurses and NPs can't be shareholders. Hospitals that don't control medical judgment are exempt. Confirm the entity type with a West Virginia healthcare attorney.

The biggest risk in West Virginia. Prescribing without a filed collaborative agreement before the Board grants independent prescribing, and Schedule II prescriptions beyond three days.

Check it with your boards: West Virginia Board of Registered Nurses - wvrnboard.wv.gov and West Virginia Board of Medicine - wvbom.wv.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 West 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 West Virginia. What has to be in place before I offer injectables?
2. What must my medical director agreement cover in West Virginia?
3. What can an esthetician do in West 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.