



Estheticians, Master Estheticians and the Use of Devices/Lasers

Practice of Esthetics

RCW 18.16.020 (27) defines the practice of esthetics as the care of the skin for compensation by application, use of preparations, antiseptics, tonics, essential oils, exfoliants, superficial or light peels or by any device, except laser, or equipment, electrical or otherwise, or by wraps, compresses, cleansing, conditioning, stimulation, superficial skin stimulation, pore extraction, or product application and removal; temporary removal of superfluous hair by means of lotions, creams, appliance, waxing, threading, tweezing, or depilatories, including chemical means; and application of product to the eyelashes and eyebrows, including extensions, design and treatment, tinting and lightening of the hair, excluding the scalp. Under no circumstances does the practice of esthetics include the administration of injections.

Practice of Master Esthetics

RCW 18.16.020 (29) defines the practice of master esthetics as the care of the skin for compensation including all of the methods allowed in the definition of the practice of esthetics. It also includes the performance of medium depth peels and the use of medical devices for care of the skin and permanent hair reduction. The medical devices include, but are not limited to, lasers, light, radio frequency, plasma, intense pulsed light, and ultrasound. The use of a medical device must comply with state laws and rules, including any laws or rules that require delegation or supervision by a licensed health professional acting within the scope of practice of that health profession.

The Department of Health (DOH) has adopted rules that state a licensed physician may delegate the use of medical prescriptive devices, as defined by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), to a trained and licensed professional, whose licensure and scope of practice allows the use of medical prescriptive devices. Please contact the Department of Health if you need more information at 1-800-525-0127 or visit their website at www.doh.wa.gov.

Estheticians and Master Estheticians may use medical devices that are approved by the FDA as “over the counter.” Master Estheticians may use medical devices listed with the FDA as a “prescriptive device” under the authority of a licensed physician.

Laser technicians have the option of obtaining a master esthetics license or obtaining a license under the Department of Health that would allow them to use a medical prescriptive device.

The FDA defines medical devices as “prescriptive or over the counter” in their approved intended use statement.

In order to verify if a medical device is “prescriptive” or “over the counter,” you can enter the product code of the equipment on the FDA website at <http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfpcd/classification.cfm>.