



College of
Registered Nurses
of Manitoba

Practice Support Document:

Medical Aesthetics: Procedural List

The College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba (the College) Council must, by regulation, establish standards of practice to regulate the quality of practice of registrants of the College.

The Council approves practice directions which are written statements to enhance, explain, add, or guide registrants with respect to matters described in the College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba General Regulation or any other matter relevant to registered nursing practice. Compliance with practice directions is required; these expectations also serve as a legal reference to describe reasonable and prudent nursing practice.

It is the responsibility of all registrants to understand all practice expectations and be accountable to apply them to their own nursing practice, regardless of roles or practice settings. Responsibility is the duty to satisfactorily complete your obligations. Accountability means being capable of explaining why you did or did not meet these expectations.

The policies of employers do not relieve individual registrants of accountability for their own actions or the primary obligation to meet practice directions. Employer's policies should not require a registrant to practise in a manner that violates practice directions.

NOTE: the use of the word registrant refers to registered nurse, registered nurse (authorized prescriber), registered nurse (nurse practitioner), registered nurse (graduate nurse practitioner), and graduate nurse.

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Purpose

The Medical Aesthetics: Procedural List helps registrants distinguish between activities that constitute registered nursing practice and those that constitute esthetic services. As outlined in the Practice Direction – Medical Aesthetics, registrants are expected to record nursing practice hours performing medical aesthetics, excluding hours dedicated to esthetic services, for license renewal ([currency of practice](#)) and verification of practice hours, if requested by the College.

Criteria

The definition of registered nursing in medical aesthetics varies according to different criteria.

- Nursing scope – performance of a reserved act
- Integration of the nursing process
- Utilization of nursing knowledge, skill and judgment
- Risk of client harm
- Depth of procedural effect
- Destruction, stimulation or alteration of living tissue
- Common practice across jurisdictions
- Evidence-informed practice, e.g. efficacy and safety
- Education, training and procurement requirements to access and use technology
- Access to product or technology – prescription or other regulatory controls
- Medical indication versus a purely cosmetic service

Not every criterion needs to be satisfied for a procedure to be considered part of registered nursing practice; instead, the decision is based on an overall assessment of the procedure. Ultimately, registrants are responsible for identifying and justifying which aspects of their medical aesthetic practice fall under registered nursing practice.

Procedure List Application

Procedures generally recognized as registered nurse (RN) or nurse practitioner (NP) medical aesthetic nursing practice are marked with 'YES.' Services that generally align with esthetics or are not evidence-informed are marked with 'NO.' The registrant must use the listed criteria and judgment to determine whether a procedure falls under registered nursing practice or esthetics, and whether they possess the necessary knowledge, skill, and judgment to perform the procedure competently, or if it should be performed at all.

While the College does not regulate esthetic services, registrants who choose to perform them are still expected to apply appropriate knowledge, skill, and judgment to ensure they are carried out safely and competently.

The procedural listing is not an exhaustive catalogue of all services performed in aesthetic or esthetic practice. If a specific activity is not included, registrants are expected to apply their professional judgment using the criteria outlined above or consult with the Quality Practice team for guidance. The listing is subject to updates as clinical indications, evidence, and technologies continue to evolve.

Procedure Type	RN	NP
Bleaching, Skin	No	No
Body Sculpting (thermal) Cryolipolysis	Yes	Yes
Chemical Peels	Yes	Yes
Cosmetic Nail Treatments	No	No
Cosmetic (Camouflage) Tattooing	No	No
Dermaplaning	No	No
Eyelash Enhancement, e.g. bimatoprost ophthalmic solution	No	Yes (prescribing)
Eyelash Extensions	No	No
Facials	No	No
Injectable Adipose Lipolysis (deoxycholic acid)	Yes	Yes
Injectable Dermal Fillers/Tissue Volumizing Agents	Yes	Yes
Intense Pulsed Light (IPL)		
- Photofacial	Yes	Yes
- Hair removal		
a. Esthetic indication	No	No
b. Medical indication	Yes	Yes
Intravenous Wellness, e.g. glutathione IV	No	No
LASER Treatments, e.g. fractionated ablative lasers	Yes	Yes
Light Emitting Diode (LED) e.g. hair growth stimulation	No	No
Microdermabrasion	No	No
Microneedling		
- Equal to or less than 0.5 mm in Depth with a Cosmetic Indication	No	No
- Equal to or less than 0.5 mm in Depth with a Medical Indication	Yes	Yes
- Greater than 0.5 mm in Depth	Yes	Yes
Narrow Band UVB	Yes	Yes
Neuromodulators, e.g. onabotulinumtoxinA	Yes	Yes
PhotoBiomobilization for pain	Yes	Yes
Platelet Rich Plasma (PRP)	Yes	Yes
Polydioxanone (PDO) Thread Lift	No	No
Prescribing Medications	-	Yes
Radiofrequency Therapy	Yes	Yes
Sclerotherapy, Minor	Yes	Yes
Teeth Whitening	No	No
Ultherapy Skin Tightening (Ultrasound Energy)	Yes	Yes
Waxing/sugaring	No	No