



Esthetics in Oregon FAQ

HEALTH LICENSING OFFICE

1. What is esthetics?

Esthetics, in Oregon, has been defined by the legislature in ORS 690.005(5):

“Esthetics” means any of the following skin care or facial care practices performed on the human body or face for the purpose of keeping the skin of the human body or face healthy and attractive and not for medical diagnosis or treatment of disease or physical or mental ailments:

- (a) The use of the hands or mechanical or electric apparatuses or appliances for cleansing, stimulating, manipulating, exfoliating or applying lotions or creams.
- (b) Temporary removal of hair.
- (c) Makeup artistry.
- (d) Eyelash services.
- (e) Facial and body wrapping.
- (f) Facial and body waxing.

If a service does not fall within this definition, it is not within the scope of esthetics.

2. Does esthetics include skin-related medical services?

No. The legislature specifically excluded services that are for “medical diagnosis or treatment of disease or physical or mental ailments” from the scope of esthetics practice.

3. What else is outside the scope of esthetics?

Many practices will fall outside the scope of esthetics because they do not fit within the legislature’s definition of esthetics. Examples include but are not limited to:

- The use of ablative lasers.
- The removal of spider veins.
- Tattoo removal.
- Botox injections.

4. Can a certified esthetician advertise as a “medical esthetician?”

No. Medical services are not within the scope of practice of an esthetician so this is a misleading and deceptive title.

5. Can a certified esthetician work as a medical assistant for a doctor?

Yes. Estheticians are not prohibited from having non-esthetic employment just because they have an esthetics certification.

However, as discussed above, this work would not fall within the scope of esthetics.

If a certified esthetician is moonlighting as a medical assistant for a physician, the certified esthetician needs to ensure that clients are not misled into thinking that non-esthetic services fall within the scope of the person's certificate as an esthetician.

A certified esthetician who is acting in a dual capacity as an esthetician and a medical assistant at a so-called "medspa" will need to be particularly careful that clients understand the differences between the medical and esthetic services and the role of the certified individual when providing these services.

6. What happens if HLO receives a complaint that an esthetician is unlawfully or negligently practicing medicine?

HLO and the Board of Cosmetology do not regulate the practice of medicine. HLO will refer the complaint to the Oregon Medical Board or other appropriate health professional regulatory board.

A certified individual may be subject to sanctions if providing out of scope services while acting as an esthetician.

For questions regarding this information please contact Samie Patnode at (503) 373-1917 or samie.patnode@state.or.us