



## Medical Spa Services Work Group

Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing

**Minutes for Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at 4:00 PM AKDT**

Held via Teams videoconference

**Work group members present:** April Erickson, Board of Nursing; Ramsey Bell for Ashley Schaber, Board of Pharmacy; Shannon Thompson, Board of Barbers and Hairdressers; John Lloyd, Board of Chiropractic Examiners; David Paulson, State Medical Board

**Work group members excused:** Kenley Michaud, Board of Dental Examiners

**Staff present:** Sara Chambers, facilitator; Sylvan Robb, Reid Bowman, Natalie Norberg, Patty Wolf

**Members of affiliated boards present:** Kevin McKinley and Mae Canady, Board of Barbers and Hairdressers

**Public:** Approximately half a dozen members of the public were present.

### CALL TO ORDER

As facilitator, Ms. Chambers called the Work Group to order at 4:00 p.m. by calling the roll. She noted that a quorum was present and welcomed staff and members of the public who were present. She mentioned that Dr. Michaud could not attend the meeting due to a work commitment, which he had shared with the group when the meeting was scheduled.

She clarified the purpose of the Work Group:

- Identify “lifestyle enhancement” services that have a medical nexus and are currently performed or likely to be performed outside of a medical clinic or without appropriate supervision.
- Identify existing statutes and regulations that govern current requirements for training, licensure, and supervision of these procedures.
- Clarify how licensing boards could—jointly or in part—explain existing statutes and regulations that would help the public and licensees understand how these procedures should be safely administered according to the current laws of the state.
- Suggest changes in statute that would allow defensible and transparent pathways forward for appropriately trained and supervised individuals to provide these services without imposing undue economic or regulatory barriers.
- Carry forward Work Group updates and work products to the member boards for their subsequent review and action.

### AGENDA OVERVIEW

Ms. Chambers outlined the meeting agenda, which included a review of an FAQ summarizing the group's work and a discussion on Botox, fillers, and cosmetic injectables. She emphasized the importance of staying on task and invited public comments.

### REVIEW CORRESPONDENCE and PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment or correspondence was received for review.

### BOTOX AND COSMETIC INJECTABLES DISCUSSION

Ms. Chambers led a discussion on Botox, fillers, and cosmetic injectables, focusing on who can evaluate, diagnose, and administer these treatments. The group agreed that physicians, physician assistants, and APRNs are qualified to perform these tasks. Dr. Paulson raised a question about dentists' ability to use Botox for cosmetic procedures. Ms. Chambers clarified that the Board of Dental Examiners had explored this topic within the last year and determined dentists, but not dental hygienists, can use Botox within the scope of dentistry, such as for TMJ treatment, but not for general cosmetic purposes. Dr. Erickson supported this clarification.

**Delegation and Certification:** The group discussed the delegation of tasks to medical assistants and the certification requirements for administering injectables. Ms. Wolf provided information on a specific regulation (12 AAC 44.966) that allows APRNs to delegate injectable medication administration to certified medical assistants. However, upon discussion, it did not seem that the restriction to an “ambulatory care” setting was relevant to medical spas. There was also a question about whether this would be relevant to Botox placement since that is a different procedure than a typical injectable medication. Dr. Erickson will take this topic back to the Board of Nursing to see if additional definition or clarification would be helpful.

Dr. Paulson was interested in exploring licensure of medical assistants beyond the private certification currently addressed in Board of Nursing regulations. Ms. Chambers recounted the proposed legislation attempting to license medical assistants in or around 2018, which was defeated by the medical industry. Dr. Erickson mentioned that medical assistant training was a topic the Board of Nursing was already discussing.

#### **DRAFT MEDICAL SPA SERVICES FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REVIEW**

The group walked through most of the areas of the draft FAQ Ms. Chambers had provided, stating that for the most part, they thought it was well-written and was ready for further review by each board.

**Medical Director and Clinic Oversight:** Ms. Chambers explained the roles and responsibilities of a medical director, emphasizing that they must have the legal authority to supervise or delegate medical or nursing activities. She clarified that “medical spa” and “medical director” are not legally defined in the state. The group discussed the qualifications and scope of practice for medical directors, with concerns raised by Dr. Paulson and Dr. Erickson regarding whether a physician assistant could serve as a medical director since they cannot practice independently. Ms. Chambers said she would note that concern for the Medical Board to discuss, particularly whether that service could be included in the collaborative agreement and, if so, what the legal impact would be to the supervising physician.

**Chiropractic Scope of Practice:** Dr. Lloyd raised concerns about the inclusion of laser and tattoo removal services in the FAQ, arguing that these services fall within the scope of chiropractic practice. The group discussed who would be “an appropriate health care provider trained and licensed under AS 08 to perform the treatment” per the Medical Board’s regulation 12 AAC 40.967(32). There was also discussion about whether chiropractic statutes and regulations permitted or prohibited these practices. They agreed to seek clarification from the Medical Board on this issue. Dr. Lloyd also asked how other practices that are not specifically called out in statute or regulation are regulated, such as acoustical soundwave therapy for treatment of erectile dysfunction. He said he did not agree that use of lasers is restricted to those who hold a medical license; it is part of the practice of chiropractic since it addresses whole body wellness. Ms. Chambers said she would request clarification on that and reiterated that the current goal of this work group is to clarify what the existing statutes and regulations say about common medical spa practices; proposed changes to current statutes and regulations can be addressed in the near future.

#### **EMS Professionals and Work in Medical Spas**

Ms. Chambers mentioned that she worked with the State EMS Medical Director to clarify that EMS professionals and paramedics may not work within a medical spa setting. It is not covered within their license and puts their certification at risk.

#### **Future Meetings**

Ms. Chambers encouraged work group members to provide feedback and announced plans to schedule a follow-up meeting in mid-July, pending feedback from the Department of Law on the questions raised at this meeting. The goal would be to perfect a draft for each board to review at their upcoming August meetings.

#### **ADJOURN**

Having no further business to come before it, the work group adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:00 p.m.