



NEW SOUTH WALES NURSES AND MIDWIVES' ASSOCIATION
AUSTRALIAN NURSING AND MIDWIFERY FEDERATION NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH



POSITION STATEMENT ON NURSES AND COSMETIC PROCEDURES

Re-Endorsed by Annual Conference 2022

NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association
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Position Statement on Nurses and Cosmetic Procedures

THE NSW NURSES AND MIDWIVES ASSOCIATION RECOGNISES THAT:

- Nurses play an integral role in the provision of many cosmetic procedures either as part of a multi-disciplinary team or independently as a nurse practitioner.
- Nurses who are appropriately educated and assessed to be competent in cosmetic nursing may include this in their scope of practice.
- Scope of practice is influenced by the context in which the nurse practises, the health needs of people, the level of competence and confidence of the nurse and the policy requirements of the service provider (if applicable)¹.
- Cosmetic injectables are primarily used to enhance appearance and are not widely used for therapeutic purposes².
- Many of the drugs used in cosmetic procedures are classified in the schedule of the Poisons Standard³ as Schedule 4 drugs.
- Changes to the Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 1966 in 2018 created a new classification for medicines used in cosmetic procedures.

THE NSW NURSES AND MIDWIVES ASSOCIATION ADOPTS THE POSITION THAT:

1. Nurses who work in the area of cosmetic nursing and/or administer cosmetic injectables must:
 - be registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA);
 - be educated and competent to practice in the area of cosmetic nursing;
 - have completed the appropriate training for each product that is used in their practice as a nurse; and
 - must understand and comply with:
 - Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia Professional Practice Framework including: Registration Standards, Codes, Guidelines, decision making framework and policies;

- Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia Position Statement Nurses and Cosmetic Medical Procedures⁴;
 - The *Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 1966* (NSW) and the *Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008* (NSW); and
 - Local policies, protocols and guidelines (if applicable).
- be aware of the Medical Board of Australia Guidelines for registered medical practitioners who perform cosmetic medical and surgical procedures⁵;
 - have a current First Aid Certificate or equivalent that includes certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and emergency management including anaphylaxis; and
 - be covered by an appropriate Professional Indemnity Insurance policy;
2. Nurses who do not hold endorsement by NMBA as a Nurse Practitioner must only administer substances in accordance with a valid written order prescribed by a medical practitioner that is made after that medical practitioner has assessed the person receiving care. The medical practitioner must be contactable and able to respond to the nurse if required⁶.
 3. Enrolled nurses are accountable for their own practice and remain responsible to a registered nurse for the delegated care¹.
 4. Nurse Practitioners who practice independently in the area of cosmetic nursing should develop policies and procedures that guide their practice in accordance with their individual scope of practice.
 5. Nurses who practice in the area of cosmetic nursing should ensure that they complete continuing professional development that is relevant to the context of their practice in accordance with the NMBA's Registration Standard: Continuing Professional Development⁷.

REFERENCES

1. Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia 2016, *Registered nurse standards for practice*, Melbourne, Victoria.
2. Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council 2011, *Cosmetic medical and surgical procedures and national framework final report*, Inter-Jurisdictional cosmetic surgery working group.
3. Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Medicines and Poisons No. 16 (the SUSMP 16).
4. Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia 2022, *Position Statement: Nurses and cosmetic procedures*, Melbourne, Victoria.
5. Medical Board of Australia 2016, *Guidelines for registered medical practitioners who perform medical and surgical procedures*, Canberra, Australia.
6. Ibid.
7. Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia, 1 June 2016, *Registration Standard: Continuing professional development*, Melbourne, Australia.