

Position statement

March 2018

Nurses and cosmetic procedures

Introduction

The National Registration and Accreditation Scheme ([the National Scheme](#)) for health practitioners in Australia commenced on 1 July 2010 under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act* ([the National Law](#)) as in force in each state and territory.

Under the National Law, the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) is responsible for the regulation of the nursing and midwifery professions and is supported in this role by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

The NMBA has approved registration standards, codes, guidelines and standards for practice that together form a Professional Practice Framework (PPF). The PPF determines the requirements and expectations which guide the professional practice of nurses and midwives in Australia.

NMBA position on nurses providing cosmetic procedures

The NMBA recognises that nurses obtain and develop qualifications and expertise through the course of their careers. It is an expectation that nurses are educated and competent in the specific area of practice required to meet the needs of their client group. Employers should be aware of the scope of practice of nurses they employ.

Nurses working in the area of cosmetic procedures are required to comply with the NMBA standards, codes and guidelines including but not limited to:

- Registered nurse standards for practice
- Code of conduct for nurses
- Guidelines for advertising regulated health services, and
- National framework for the development of decision-making tools for nursing and midwifery practice.

Nurses working in the area of cosmetic procedures are required to know and comply with relevant state and territory drugs and poisons legislation (however titled) regarding using, obtaining, selling, storing, prescribing, administering and supplying scheduled medicines.

Nurses need to ensure that they are also compliant with local policies, protocols and guidelines when undertaking cosmetic procedures.

Nurses working in the area of cosmetic procedures should be aware of the Medical Board of Australia's (MBA) *Guidelines for registered medical practitioners who perform cosmetic medical and surgical procedures*, in effect from 1 October 2016. These guidelines establish the MBA's expectations of medical practitioners who perform cosmetic medical and surgical procedures. The guidelines can be found on the [MBA website](#).

Document control

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