



ANMF (Vic Branch) Policy

Cosmetic nursing procedures

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (Victorian Branch) [ANMF (Vic Branch)] recognises that the area of cosmetic procedures is an expanding service. Nurses in this area of practice perform an integral role in assisting medical practitioners undertaking cosmetic procedures; or may undertake some procedures, including cosmetic injections, as part of their practice.

In Victoria, registered and enrolled nurses, nurse practitioners and registered midwives work in accordance with the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Victoria) Act 2009*¹. Consequently, the individual nurse / midwife scope of practice is further contextualised by the area of clinical practice in which they work².

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) has approved registration standards, codes, guidelines and standards for professional practice of nurses and midwives in Australia³. It is a professional standard expectation that nurses are educationally prepared and competent to practice in the area of cosmetic procedures while working within their scope of practice, commensurate with their individual assessed education and competence and in line with the NMBA Decision-making framework for nursing and midwifery⁴ (DMF).

Injectable products used in cosmetic procedures⁵ are generally classified as a scheduled poison in accordance with the *Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981*⁶ and are primarily used to enhance personal appearance and are not generally widely used for therapeutic purposes⁷. Cosmetic injections are considered medical procedures because substances in these injections may cause skin damage, blindness, numbness, muscle weakness or even death if used incorrectly.

Nurse Practitioners who practice independently in the area of cosmetic nursing procedures should ensure they have developed practice guidance policies commensurate with their NMBA Endorsement and their individual scope of practice⁸.

Employers should develop local policies and procedures to guide registered and enrolled nurses and nurse practitioners to support their practice in accordance with the NMBA Professional standards, codes, frameworks and guidelines. It is the responsibility of the registered and enrolled nurse to

¹ Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Victoria) Act 2009. Available at: <https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/>

² Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia. 2020. Position statement on nurses and cosmetic procedures. Available at: <https://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines-Statements/Position-Statements/nurses-and-cosmetic-procedures.aspx>

³ Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia. 2020. Position statement on nurses and cosmetic procedures. Available at: <https://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines-Statements/Position-Statements/nurses-and-cosmetic-procedures.aspx>

⁴ Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia. 2020. Decision-making framework for nursing and midwifery Available at: <https://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines-Statements/Frameworks.aspx>

⁵ Injectable Products used in Cosmetic Procedures include Botulinum toxins and dermal fillers. Further reference available at: <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/conditionsandtreatments/cosmetic-treatments-injectables>

⁶ Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981. Available at: https://content.legislation.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/85877eed-1917-39a0-9f5e-3dd3948be0a8_81-9719aa128%20authorised.pdf

⁷ Cosmetic Injections Fact Sheet. 2019. Therapeutic Goods Administration. Available at: <https://www.tga.gov.au/cosmetic-injections>

⁸ New South Wales Nurses and Midwives' Association. 2019. Position Statement on Cosmetic Nursing. Available at: <https://www.nswnma.asn.au/publications/policies-and-procedures/>

understand their individual scope of practice and inform the Employer if the cosmetic procedure or local policy does not comply with legislative requirements.

Employers should be aware of the educational preparation of nurses they employ and have appropriate policy in place to inform and support their scope of practice.

Position statement

It is the position of the ANMF (Victorian Branch) that nurses who work in the area of cosmetic nursing and/or who administer cosmetic injectables must:

1. At all times comply with their NMBA practice and registration standards, codes and guidelines including, but not limited to:
 - a) Code of conduct for nurses
 - b) Guidelines for advertising regulated health services
 - c) Professional Indemnity Insurance requirements
 - d) Decision-making framework for nursing and midwifery
 - e) The NMBA Position Statement on Nurses and Cosmetic Procedures⁹.
2. Ensure nursing practice is in accordance with relevant legislation, organisational policy and procedures, including the *Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981*¹⁰ and the *Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Regulations 2017*¹¹ regarding the supply, sale, storage, prescription and administration of medicines when undertaking cosmetic procedures.
3. Only administer medicine or other treatments to persons who:
 - a) Have been comprehensively assessed by a medical practitioner;
 - b) Have been prescribed a medicine or other treatment by a person who has is authorised to do so under Part 3 of the *Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Regulations 2017*¹² (authorised prescriber).
4. Only carry out cosmetic procedures and/or administer products where they are educationally prepared and competent to do so and where this is in accordance with local policy and procedure. Nurses should ensure they have successfully completed a recognised education program and undertaken relevant training in the use of equipment which is required to carry out cosmetic procedures.
5. Understand all the risks that are associated with cosmetic injections and undertake nursing practice within the guidelines of organisational, policies, protocols (where applicable).
6. Be aware of the *Medical Board of Australia's Guidelines for Registered Medical Practitioners Who Perform Cosmetic Medical and Surgical Procedures*¹³ and the associated requirements for the Medical Board's expectations for medical practitioners that perform medical and cosmetic procedures and prescribe schedule 4 medicine used in cosmetic procedures.
7. Have appropriate Professional Indemnity Insurance cover for cosmetic procedures*.

⁹ Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia. 2020. Position statement on nurses and cosmetic procedures. Available at:

<https://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines-Statements/Position-Statements/nurses-and-cosmetic-procedures.aspx>

¹⁰ Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981. Available at: http://classic.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/vic/consol_act/dpacsa1981422/

¹¹ Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Regulations 2017. Available at: <https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/>

¹² Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Regulations 2017 (Part 3). Available at: <https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/>

¹³ Guidelines for registered medical practitioners who perform cosmetic medical and surgical procedures. 2016 Available at:

<https://www.medicalboard.gov.au/News/2016-05-09-media-statement.aspx>

* For ANMF Victorian Branch Members: Professional Indemnity Insurance excludes Cosmetic Injectables