

VERMONT STATE BOARD OF NURSING
THE ROLE OF THE NURSE IN
PERFORMING DERMATOLOGICAL LASER THERAPY
POSITION STATEMENT

Question: The Board received a request for an opinion on the role of the nurse in performing dermatological laser therapy.

Dermatologic laser therapy is a medical treatment may include laser and light-based hair removal, sub-surface light rejuvenation technology, chemical peels, and micro dermabrasion. The role of the nurse in laser therapy may vary upon the degree of invasiveness, the condition of the patient and the setting in which the therapy is performed.

It is the Board's opinion that nurses may perform laser therapy if there is a policy and procedure in place in the health care facility, and, if the following criteria are met:

- Appropriate education that includes didactic and clinical experience related to laser technology including safety standards.
- Demonstrated skill in performing the therapy.
- Demonstration of continuing competency in performing the therapy.
- Protocols are in writing and include emergency procedures.
- The therapy has been prescribed by a physician.
- Written acknowledgment that the therapy has been delegated by a currently licensed physician.

This Position Statement represents the Board's current thinking. Position statements are not legally binding.

Approved: December 2001