



Position Statement Regarding:

AAD Proposal for “On-Site” Supervision of Esthetic and Cutaneous Procedures

The Association Medical Esthetic Nurses (AMEN) views the American Academy of Dermatology’s (AAD) position on restricting esthetic non-invasive procedures as hostile. We believe the AAD is trying to establish a precedent for further restrictions on practice settings where medical esthetic nurses as well as other qualified licensed medical practitioners practice safely and with a significant degree of independence.

The Association of Medical Esthetic Nurses (AMEN) recognizes that untrained and unqualified providers of esthetic services can pose a risk to the public. Indeed, AMEN encourages training and strict compliance with up-to-date evidence-based protocols to ensure optimal patient safety.

However, we do not believe that “on-site” supervision of all nurses and other qualified licensed medical practitioners by a physician is necessary, cost-effective for consumers, or even the best way to assure patient safety. Indeed, the nurses who belong to AMEN and who specialize in minimally invasive, non-ablative esthetic procedures under the general supervision of a Medical Director offer better service to patients than afforded by many physicians who do not have the specific training in either the procedures or the medical devices that are used.

AMEN believes that the “on-site” supervision proposed by the Dermatologists, is an effort to obtain statutory protection for its members, and is likely to result in higher costs to consumers often double the price the same services can be provided by qualified nurses. While there is nothing wrong with the physician-provider model for many of these esthetic procedures, the fact is that nurses supervised by a Medical Director can be more cost-effective and equally if not more safe.

The notion of nurses practicing pursuant to protocols and standardized procedures (standing orders) is nothing new: in hospitals, home care situations, clinics, and other practice settings, nurses are involved with patients who are less healthy, who have more complex problems, pose higher risk factors, and require more invasive responses should certain incidents arise. Yet there is no call to alter those practice settings with an “on-site” supervision requirement.

Sincerely,

Sasha Parker, RN, LMT, CE, FS
President