

Guidelines for Hair Removal using Intense Pulsed Light and/or Laser Devices by Supervised Medical Personnel

Intense pulsed light and laser devices that use precisely focused light sources to penetrate and alter human tissue are prescriptive medical devices. The use of these prescriptive medical devices can result in complications such as visual impairment, blindness, inflammation, burns, scarring, hypopigmentation and hyperpigmentation. Cosmetic treatments using prescriptive medical/cosmetic devices and products is the practice of medicine as defined in Section 54-1803(1), Idaho Code.

The Medical Practice Act provides an exemption from medical licensure for persons using Class I or Class II, nonprescriptive, approved, medical devices. Section 54-1804(1)(j)(iii), Idaho Code.

IDAPA 22.01.04.010.11, defines "Medical Personnel" as those persons who provide cosmetic treatments using prescriptive medical/ cosmetic devices and products that are exclusively non-incisive or non-ablative under the direction and supervision of a supervising physician registered with the Board.

IDAPA 22.01.04.010.17, defines a "Supervising Physician of Medical Personnel" as an Idaho licensed physician, registered with the Board, who supervises and has full responsibility for cosmetic treatments using prescriptive medical/cosmetic devices and products provided by medical personnel.

The Idaho State Board of Medicine, in accordance with the Medical Practice Act, IDAPA 22.01.04, "Rules of the Board of Medicine for Registration of Supervising and Directing Physicians," and federal requirements, recognizes the following guidelines for hair removal using intense pulsed light and/or laser devices by qualified supervised medical personnel to ensure public health and safety in Idaho:

1. The use of an intense pulsed light and/or laser prescriptive device to cosmetically alter human tissue must be upon the prescription of an Idaho licensed physician; and
2. The actual treatment for hair removal using an intense pulsed light and/or laser prescriptive device may be delegated by an Idaho licensed physician registered as a supervising physician with the Idaho State Board of Medicine to properly trained medical personnel in accordance with IDAPA 22.01.04.