

**BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING**

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Executive Officer

Performance of Laser Therapy by RNs

The Board of Registered Nursing recognizes that the use of laser therapy and laser technology has changed significantly since the introduction for medical use. The RN plays many important roles and performs many functions in providing care to patients requiring laser therapy. These roles and functions change based on the patients' conditions, the degree of invasiveness of the laser procedures, and the settings in which the treatment occurs.

The Board has received inquiries regarding the registered nurses actually using the laser to provide therapy. ***It is within the RN's scope of practice to use laser therapy for patients if there is an approved standardized procedure.*** The use of lasers to provide therapy is the practice of medicine and standardized procedures are the legal mechanism for the registered nurse to perform medical functions, such as laser therapy.

The RN must receive appropriate education and supervised practice to ensure competency in performing the laser therapies, must be able to respond appropriately to complications, and must be able to respond to untoward effects of the laser procedure. In addition to procedural and clinical aspects of laser technology and treatment, appropriate education should include didactic and clinical experience related to laser technologies for medical purposes, including laser safety standards.

Business and Professions Code, Section 2725(b)(4), (c) provides the statutory authority for registered nurses to perform medical functions pursuant to standardized procedures. California Code of Regulations, Section 1474 contains standardized procedure requirements. Additional information about standardized procedures can be obtained by contacting the BRN at the above address or from the ***BRN website www.rn.ca.gov***.

The Medical Board of California (MBC) has determined that unlicensed persons may not lawfully use a laser to remove hair, or to remove wrinkles, scars, moles, or other blemishes. The term "unlicensed person" includes medical assistants.

(Business and Professions Code Section 2051 and Section 2052). The MBC can be contacted for more information:

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