

**BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING**

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Executive Officer

RNs PERFORMING BOTOX® COSMETIC INJECTIONS

The use of Botox® Cosmetic injections for “frown lines” has been popularized in the newspaper and in the media. The Board of Registered Nursing is receiving many inquiries asking whether it is within the RN scope of practice to perform Botox® Cosmetic injections for facial wrinkles.

Botox® Cosmetic is legally considered a “dangerous drug or device” as defined in Business and Professions Code Section 4022, and the prescriber of Botox® Cosmetic must be a California licensed physician. There must be a “good-faith examination” of the patient before a Botox® Cosmetic prescription (Business and Professions Code 2242) is provided. A knowledgeable and competent RN may implement a physician’s medical order for a Botox® Cosmetic injection upon the physician’s patient if the RN is educated and trained to a sufficient level to protect the safety of the patient. The RN must be knowledgeable regarding the muscles of the face and have attained clinical pharmacology and pharmacokinetics knowledge including dosage parameters and adverse reactions. The RN must have appropriately validated clinical competence in the performance of Botox® Cosmetic injection to safeguard the patient against injury or complications.

Botox® Cosmetic injection is the practice of medicine, and RNs cannot legally obtain a sponsoring physician to perform Botox® Cosmetic injections on their own. The knowledgeable and competent RN could be authorized to perform Botox® Cosmetic injection for “frown lines” by approved standardized procedure in an organized health care system (Business and Professions Code, Section 2725 and California Code of Regulations, Section 1470-1474). Organized health care systems include clinics, home health agencies, physician’s offices, and public or community health services. **Beauty salons, health spas, shopping malls, and private residences do not meet the requirement of an organized health care system for the performance of standardized procedures.**

Botox® Cosmetic is a pharmaceutical produced by Allergan. Allergan has two Web sites providing information about Botox®: www.botox.com and www.botoxcosmetic.com.

If you have specific questions, please contact the Board of Registered Nursing or visit the BRN Web site (see letterhead above).