

LASER LICENSURE FAQ'S

1. I am physician with an active Georgia license. Do I need a laser license?

No

2. Who requires a laser license?

Estheticians, master cosmetologists, LPNs, and individuals who qualify for an Assistant Laser Practitioner under the Grandfather Clause (see #5) who wish to perform cosmetic laser treatments. PAs, APRNs, and RNs who wish to supervise Assistant Laser Practitioners must obtain a Senior Laser Practitioner License. PAs with Board approved additional duties and APRNs with protocol agreements that include cosmetic laser treatments who do not supervise Assistant Laser Practitioners do not require a laser license.

3. Which lasers are covered?

Laser hair removal devices, intense pulsed light devices, and non-ablative light based devices. This would include tattoo removal lasers, lasers indicated for removal of pigmentation or vascular lesions, superficial fractional resurfacing lasers, and lasers used for skin tightening or fat removal. The Board will further define this list in Rules which will be written in the near future.

4. What are the qualifications and requirements for licensure?

- a. Assistant Laser Practitioner
 - i. Holds a current active license as a PA, LPN, RN, APRN, esthetician, or master cosmetologist; or has previously held a license as a RN, APRN, PA, or physician
 - ii. Has 3 valid laser training certificates (see #6)
 - iii. Assistant Laser Practitioners can only treat patients under the direct on-site supervision of a physician or Senior Laser Practitioner
- b. Senior Laser Practitioner
 - i. Holds a current active license as an RN, APRN, or PA; or has previously held a license as an RN, APRN, PA or physician. The applicant must have been licensed for at least 3 years.
 - ii. Has at least 3 years of clinical or medical technological experience. Clinical rotations in medical, nursing, or PA school would not satisfy this requirement.
 - iii. Has 2 valid laser training certificates (see #6)

5. I do not meet the requirements for regular licensure. What are the requirements for licensure under the Grandfather Clause?

- a. You must be able to document 2,000 hours of laser experience obtained prior to March 1, 2014
- b. You must have 2 valid laser certificates (see #6)
- c. Application for licensing under the grandfather clause must be received no later than December 31, 2014.

6. What laser certificates are approved for licensure?

Only laser certificates from courses that were taught by a physician. If a physician did not teach the course, the board will accept a certificate on which a physician attests that they participated in the training. The physician's signature must be notarized. Moving forward, the Board may approve other specific courses at its discretion. Certificates from courses taught in other states are acceptable.

7. Do I have to submit an application and pay the fee to obtain the license? Can I apply without the fee and then submit once approved?

Only complete applications which include all necessary supporting materials and the fee will be considered. Applications received without the fee will not be processed.

8. I have a laser license in another state. Is this valid in Georgia?

No. You will still need to apply for a Georgia license.

9. Which patients need to be examined prior to cosmetic laser treatment? Who can do this exam?

Patients receiving laser hair removal or intense pulsed light services do not need to be examined prior to treatment. All other patients receiving cosmetic laser treatments must be examined prior to treatment by a licensed physician, or a PA or APRN with delegated authority to perform the exam. According to the law, a RN does not qualify to do this exam. The patient does not need a separate exam before each treatment. The individual performing the exam does not need a laser license if he/she is not operating the laser.

10. Does the owner of a laser facility need a license?

You do not require a laser license if you are not personally operating a laser. Anyone operating a laser other than a physician with a current Georgia license must have a laser license.

11. Is the physician legally responsible for treatments performed by a senior laser practitioner or assistant laser practitioner?

Check with your attorney or your malpractice insurance provider.

12. I am an assistant laser practitioner. When do I need direct on-site supervision from a senior laser practitioner or physician? When do I NOT require direct on site supervision?

You do not require direct on site supervision when performing laser hair removal or IPL treatment. Performance of any other light based cosmetic laser procedure requires direct on site supervision.

13. Can a podiatrist supervise laser practitioners who are licensed by the Medical Board?

No

