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Board of Cosmetology
Position Statement: Ear Candling

- Athletic Trainers
Barbers
Body Piercing Technicians
Denturists
Direct Entry Midwives
Electrologists
Environmental Health Specialists
Estheticians
Hair Designers
Hearing Aid Specialists
Nail Technicians
Permanent Color Technicians
Respiratory Therapists
Sex Offender Therapists
Tattoo Artists
Waste Water Specialists

Ear Candling Prohibited, Not in Scope of Practice

Ear candling is prohibited by certified practitioners in licensed facilities because it is not within the scope of practice of any of the four fields of practice in Oregon: barbering, esthetics, hair design and nail technology.

Ear candling is a practice claimed to assist the natural clearing of earwax from a person's ear by lighting one end of a hollow candle and placing the other end in the ear canal.

According to MayoClinic.com, ear candling is "not recommended" and that "research has found that ear candling doesn't work and it may be dangerous."

MayoClinic.com also states that "A doctor trained in ear-cleaning techniques with the proper equipment is a much safer and more effective option for removing earwax buildup.

Even without this information from a nationally reputable health information provider, ear candling does not fit within the statutory definition of cosmetology under Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 690.005, which is:

(4) "Cosmetology" means the art or science of beautifying and improving the skin, nails and hair and the study of cosmetics and their application.

Ear candling also doesn't fit within the individual field of practice definitions for barbering, esthetics, hair design and nail technology, also found in ORS 690.005.

The Oregon Health Licensing Agency (OHLA) and the Board of Cosmetology adopted this position statement on November 3, 2008.

- Board of Athletic Trainers
Board of Cosmetology
Board of Direct Entry Midwifery
Board of Denture Technology
Environmental Health Registration Board
Respiratory Therapist Licensing Board
Sex Offender Treatment Board
Advisory Council on Hearing Aids
Advisory Council for Electrologists, Permanent Color Technicians & Tattoo Artists