



700 Summer St NE • Suite 320
Salem, Oregon 97301-1287

Phone (503) 378-8667

TTY (503) 373-2114

Fax (503) 370-9004

Web site www.oregon.gov/OHLA

E-mail ohla.info@state.or.us



Board of Cosmetology
Position Statement: Aqua-Chi

- 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

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

Aqua-Chi Allowed But Not Endorsed as Effective

Proponents of aqua-chi foot baths claim that the combination of water and electricity can help individuals detoxify their body, boost energy levels and “achieve optimal wellness.”

Aqua-chi does not necessarily fit within the statutory definition of cosmetology under Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 690.005(4): “*Cosmetology*” means the art or science of beautifying and improving the skin, nails and hair and the study of cosmetics and their application.

Aqua-chi also doesn’t explicitly fit within the individual field of practice definitions for barbering, esthetics, hair design and nail technology, also found in ORS 690.005.

All individual field of practice definitions include the statement that practices are allowed “...when done upon the human body for cosmetic purposes and not for medical diagnosis or treatment of disease or physical or mental ailments.”

However, if provided as part of nail technology services as a footbath prior to a pedicure or as a skin care treatment as part of esthetics practice, aqua-chi is allowed if practitioners follow all health, safety and infection control requirements, specifically **Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) 817-010-0101(5)**: *Foot spa equipment shall be cleaned and disinfected with a high-level disinfectant after use on each client.*

Based on preliminary research conducted by the Oregon Health Licensing Agency (OHLA) and Board of Cosmetology, OHLA and the Board of Cosmetology do not endorse aqua-chi as effective.

However, OHLA and the Board of Cosmetology do not discourage practitioners from providing such “wellness” services but caution practitioners to conduct their own research prior to providing such services to determine if the product or service actually is effective and allowed.

Prior to purchasing such services, consumers should also be knowledgeable about wellness services that make claims of performance or results without documented, independent research.

OHLA and the Board of Cosmetology adopted this position statement on November 3, 2008.