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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