



Oregon Health Licensing Agency

CENTRAL ISSUES

News from the Oregon Health Licensing Agency (OHLA) central agency and regulated professions

Education



☞ What Is Needed to Protect the Public?

Education and training are the foundation of most professions. Many professions, including a majority of those regulated by the Oregon Health Licensing Agency (OHLA), require continuing education as a condition of ongoing licensure.

However, there is currently no continuing education requirement for the four individual fields of practice of barbering, esthetics, hair design and nail technology overseen by OHLA and the Board of Cosmetology. In fact, only a handful of states require continuing education for these professions.

All applicants for licensure in those four fields of individual practice are required to complete 150 hours of safety and infection control training at an Oregon licensed career school (unless they are relocating from another state in which they are already licensed in good standing).

As new and potentially more virulent strains of bacteria and other transmissible bugs appear, is that training enough to keep practitioners knowledgeable about the latest steps to protect themselves and their clients from harm?

For those practitioners who are repeatedly in violation of health and safety standards, would required training in addition to civil fines assist them in complying with state requirements and reducing the potential risk of infection to consumers?

☞ How Do We Recognize Training for Advanced Levels of Practice?

Oregon is exploring the possibility of a separate, advanced level of certification for esthetics. Only a few states have such a certification. Legislation would need to be proposed to establish a new area of certification.

Is creating an entirely new and individual area of certification the most effective way to address fields of practice such as esthetics? Would rapid developments in such fields potentially make obsolete any new level of certification within a few years, causing us to go "back to the drawing board" too often? Are there other options, such as recognition of existing nationally-based certification programs?

2007

ISSUE BRIEFING: Cosmetology

Emerging issues that pose new questions and present new challenges are a fact of regulatory life at the Oregon Health Licensing Agency (OHLA).

That's why we present periodic briefings that address those emerging issues.

We think better informed licensees, consumers and other agency stakeholders (those who have a stake or interest in what and how we regulate) are better able to participate in the regulatory process.

Regulatory issues in the four individual fields of practice of barbering, esthetics, hair design and nail technology are some of the most dynamic and challenging as any issues in the multiple health and related professions we regulate.

We rely on our "subject matter experts," the Board of Cosmetology, to assist in fully addressing the issues presented here.

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OREGON HEALTH LICENSING AGENCY

Our mission is to protect the health and safety of Oregon citizens by setting, communicating and enforcing uniform regulatory standards for multiple health and related professions.

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

Multiple health and related professions and profession-specific boards, councils and

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COSMETOLOGY