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Board of Cosmetology

Position Statement: Vacuum Massage

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

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

Advisory Council on Hearing Aids

Advisory Council for Electrologists, Permanent Color Technicians & Tattoo Artists

Vacuum Massage within Esthetics Scope of Practice if Provided Specifically for Skin Care Services

The Board of Cosmetology has adopted the following position statement to clarify its position on the regulation of vacuum massage:

Vacuum massage is compatible with the statutory definition of esthetics under Oregon Revised Statutes 690.005(7) effective January 1, 2006 (bold for emphasis): “...*skin care practices performed on the human body for the purpose of keeping the skin healthy and attractive and not for medical diagnosis or treatment of disease or physical or mental ailments: (a) The use of the hands or mechanical or electrical apparatuses or appliances for cleansing, stimulating, manipulating, exfoliating or applying lotions or creams....*”

Vacuum massage uses a machine that rolls, pulls, suctions and massages parts of the body in the attempt to reduce *the appearance* of cellulite, i.e. the dimpled skin condition often associated with cellulite. If vacuum massage is used for this purpose – which is to make the skin more attractive by reducing *the appearance* of cellulite – it is within the esthetics scope of practice.

The Board and the Oregon Health Licensing Agency (OHLA) concur that other uses for such systems – such as for weight loss – are neither within the esthetics scope nor under their regulatory authority.

For use by estheticians, vacuum massage systems must be classified by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) as Class I or Class II and as intended for use within their scope of practice. Systems classified as Class III must be used only under the supervision of a physician.

As with any advanced procedure, evidence of training in the safe and effective use of vacuum massage systems must be provided upon request from the Oregon Health Licensing Agency. Training by the device manufacturer is acceptable as long as it is documented as specified in Oregon Administrative Rules 817-015-0050 (4).

The Board of Cosmetology adopted this position statement on November 6, 2006.