



Board for Barbers and Cosmetology

May 7, 2018

Guidance Document: License Required for Certain Procedures

Interpretation of what license is required to perform certain procedures under Code of Virginia §54.1-700 et. seq., re: Eyelash Extensions, Microblading, Microneedling, Chemical Exfoliation

Applying eyelashes, as referenced in §54.1-700, refers to applying any natural or synthetic extension to an individual's natural eyelashes. This practice may be known as eye tabbing or eyelash extensions. These services require a cosmetology or esthetics license.

Strip, band, or bundle eyelashes, which adhere to the skin, are services that are ancillary to makeup, and exempted under §54.1-701.10.

Microblading, also called eyebrow embroidery, refers to the application of a semi-permanent ink to the skin of the eyebrow. This practice, when performed with a needle or group of needles, requires a tattooing or permanent cosmetic tattooing license. Microblading performed with a scalpel is beyond the scope of licensure and should not be performed by a licensee of the Board.

Microneedling, also known as dermarolling, is the use of needles designed to pierce the skin for the purpose of collagen production or cellular renewal. This practice is beyond the scope of licensure and should not be performed by a licensee of the Board.

Chemical exfoliation is the removal of dead skin cells and/or the intercellular matrix through the use of chemicals. The Code of Virginia 54.1-700 defines master esthetician as "a licensed esthetician who, in addition to the practice of esthetics, offers to the public for compensation, without the use of laser technology, lymphatic drainage, chemical exfoliation, or microdermabrasion..." Chemical exfoliation requires a master esthetician license. As such, estheticians may not use chemicals, including the chemicals listed in 18VAC 41-70-250.B, to remove dead skin cells or the intercellular matrix in the skin without holding a master esthetician license.