



## FACT SHEET

for

### Cosmetic use of Lasers

This fact sheet is relevant for persons needing to use lasers for cosmetic purposes in Western Australia. The term “laser” used in this document refers to high powered lasers prescribed under the Radiation Safety Act 1975 as Class 3B and Class 4 lasers, as classified by *AS 2211.1 Safety of laser products*. Intense Pulsed Light is currently not regulated under the Radiation Safety Act at this stage.

#### Registration of Lasers and Premises

The premises and all Class 3B or Class 4 lasers in use or storage must be registered under the Radiation Safety Act.

For use of lasers by non-medical practitioners for hair removal, superficial cosmetic and tattoo removal procedures a medical practitioner will be required to be involved with setting up the protocols and procedures relating to cosmetic laser treatments. For tattoo removal, confirmation must also be provided that a registered medical practitioner is available to provide medical support to the nurse undertaking the laser tattoo removal procedures.

For superficial cosmetic and tattoo removal procedures, prior to using lasers for these procedures written correspondence must be provided from a medical practitioner confirming the patient has undergone a skin check in person with the medical practitioner prior to each course of new treatment.

Registration application forms are available from the *Forms & Fact Sheets* section of the Radiological Council website.

#### Licensing for Medical Practitioners

Medical practitioners who hold a relevant licence under the Radiation Safety Act, or medical practitioners working under the direction and personal supervision of a licensee, may operate lasers for medical purposes. Personal supervision requires the licensee to be present on the registered premises.

To be eligible for a licence, medical practitioners must be registered as such with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and must have attended a laser safety course recognised by the Radiological Council.

#### Licensing for Non-Medical Practitioners using Cosmetic Lasers

Non-medical practitioners may be able to use lasers for cosmetic procedures with a current *exemption from licence*. An exemption from licence still requires an application to the Radiological Council and an exemption certificate to be issued.

There are three types of exemptions from licence issued for cosmetic use of lasers, the prerequisites are:

### Hair Removal

- be an Enrolled Nurse, Registered Nurse or hold a Diploma or Certificate IV in beauty therapy (or equivalent);
- have attended a laser safety course recognised by the Radiological Council;
- have undertaken minimum 25 hours practical training under the immediate personal supervision of a WA licensee for the use of lasers for hair removal.

### Superficial Cosmetic Procedures

*For pigment treatments and vascular treatments only; the use of lasers for superficial cosmetic procedures does not include treating issues such as varicose veins and raised spots.*

- be an Enrolled Nurse, Registered Nurse or hold a Diploma or Certificate IV in beauty therapy (or equivalent);
- have attended a laser safety course recognised by the Radiological Council;
- have undertaken minimum 100 hours practical training under the immediate personal supervision of a WA licensee as follows:
  - Minimum 50 hours practical training for pigment treatments
  - Minimum 50 hours practical training for vascular treatments

### Tattoo Removal

- be a Division 1 Registered Nurse with minimum 5 years nursing experience;
- have attended a laser safety course recognised by the Radiological Council;
- have attended a tattoo removal course.

**Note: Enrolled Nurses and Registered Nurses** means registered as such with the (AHPRA). Immediate personal supervision requires the licensee to be present and maintain direct and continuous supervision of any person under the licensee's direction.

To demonstrate practical experience in accordance with the above requirements, evidence of the minimum total practical hours must be provided (e.g. logbook of treatments). In addition, the supervising licensee must provide written advice that the trainee has undertaken practical training in both consultation and beam-on aspects of the specified treatments and is competent in each aspect. Licensees supervising practical training will be held responsible for ensuring that the competence of trainees is accurately reported to the Council.

## Applications for a Licence or Exemption from Licence

Application forms are available from the *Forms & Fact Sheets* section of the Radiological Council website. Persons applying for either a licence or an *exemption from licence* will need to complete the initial application for licence (LX Form) and will need to include evidence of meeting the above prerequisites.

For applicants who do not meet the above prerequisites, but that have qualifications and experience obtained in another jurisdiction, the Council will consider applications based on the individual's merits. Applicants should provide with the application evidence of relevant qualifications, interstate licences (as applicable) and experience.