

## MICRODERMABRASION

### Position of the Department of Consumer & Industry Services

October 8, 2001

Microdermabrasion does not fall within the scope of practice of a licensed cosmetologist or licensed esthetician. Article 12 of the Michigan Occupational Code, P.A. 299 of 1980, as amended, is the statute governing the practice of cosmetology. A licensed cosmetologist or a licensed esthetician may perform skin care services. "Skin care services" as defined in Section 339.1201(q) of the statute, includes the following services or a combination of services:

- (i) Beautifying the skin of the body of an individual by the use of cosmetic preparations, antiseptics, tonics, lotions, or creams, including body wrapping.
- (ii) Cleansing or stimulating the skin of the body by the use of the hands, devices, apparatus, or appliances, with or without the use of cosmetic preparations, antiseptics, tonics, lotions or creams.
- (iii) The temporary removal of hair from the body of an individual by the use of depilatories, waxes, razors, scissors, clippers, or tweezers.
- (iv) Giving facials, applying removable makeup, applying eyelashes, or any other application of a preparation or beauty enhancement to the body of an individual but does not include applying permanent makeup or the use of tanning equipment.

The decision of the Michigan Department of Consumer & Industry Services (MDCIS) that microdermabrasion does not fall within the scope of practice of licensed cosmetologists or estheticians was based on a thorough review of literature describing microdermabrasion, the Occupational Code, the Administrative Rules of the Board of Cosmetology and advice from the Department of Attorney General.

The cosmetology statute was originally enacted in 1931. At that time, it appears the practice of microdermabrasion did not exist. Over the years the legislature has made several amendments to the law, the latest being in 1997. Neither the original statute nor any of the amendments ever addressed microdermabrasion.

Based on research, it appears the primary purpose of microdermabrasion involves the removal of skin, in varying degrees. Removal of skin by use of mechanical devices as opposed to its cleansing or stimulation by such devices, is not included in the specifically enumerated list of things which comprise the kind of skin care services the legislature has authorized to be performed by cosmetologists and estheticians as set forth in Section 339.1201 of the cosmetology statute. The only mention of the use of devices clearly relates to devices used only in the process of skin cleansing or stimulation, and not in the process of skin removal.

The department has determined that microdermabrasion was not a practice regulated under the cosmetology law and rules, however, the practice of microdermabrasion is regulated under the Public Health Code. The Bureau of Health Services, within MDCIS, has also issued a position statement regarding the practice of microdermabrasion under the Michigan Public Health Code, which is available on their website at [www.cis.state.mi.us/bhser](http://www.cis.state.mi.us/bhser).