

Can Dentists Administer Botox and Other Dermal Fillers?

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The ISDS headquarters office receives frequent calls on this question, most recently regarding a class for Botox that will be offered during the CDS Midwinter Meeting. According to an informal statement by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, "The use of Botox and other injectable cosmetic treatments falls within the scope of dentistry as long as it involves conditions within 'the human oral cavity and its adjacent tissues and structures.' 225 ILCS 25/4(k). These treatments may be administered by properly trained and experienced dentists. A licensed dentist may not delegate the performance of these treatments to other personnel. Under the Illinois Dental Practice Act, dental hygienists and assistants are limited in the duties they may perform. There is no language in the Act that permits a dentist to delegate the performance of injectable cosmetic treatments to dental hygienists or dental assistants; therefore, only a licensed dentist may perform Botox and dermal filler treatments.

As a dentist, please take the following into consideration if you are administering Botox and other dermal fillers:

1. Check with your malpractice carrier to see if it is a covered procedure.
2. Remember that, the farther you get away from the oral cavity, the more questionable the treatment becomes.
3. Such procedures may only be done by a dentist.
4. There is no definition for "properly trained" in the practice act. If an adverse condition would occur, a dentist must be able to prove that s/he is properly trained.