



MEDIA RELEASE

COSMETIC PHYSICIANS SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA CONCERNED ABOUT NURSE MALPRACTICE

9 July 2009 - The Cosmetic Physicians Society of Australasia (CPSA) is becoming increasingly aware of moves by nurses to recruit un-informed doctors to prescribe S4 medicines, such as Botulinum Toxin, to enable these nurses to administer unsupervised cosmetic injectable treatments.

Under Australian law and Medical Board guidelines, nurses are not permitted to administer such treatments, without a doctor's supervision. The order for such administration may only be given after the doctor has completed a full medical history and examination and prescribes the treatment.

"We are aware of nurses attempting to encourage doctors, who may or may not be experienced in cosmetic medicine, to provide the order for unsupervised administration of injectable medications without the doctors having any access to the patients. The nurses are seeking doctors to perform this task as they are unable to access the medicines themselves." said Dr Gabrielle Caswell, President of the CPSA.

"While this is against guidelines for good medical practice and any protocols established by societies working in this field, the doctors are erroneously told this is usual practice.

"This malpractice endangers patient safety and increases the likelihood of adverse, undesirable and unsatisfactory results.

"The CPSA has contacted all state and territory Medical and Nursing Boards and Health Departments to highlight this issue, and have asked them to remind doctors and nurses of the risks of such behaviour; and we strongly encourage patients to visit a doctor who focuses on cosmetic medicine if considering such treatments," said Dr Caswell.

The CPSA is interested in uniform best practice guidelines for all states and territories to ensure patient safety and developed a Protocol for Delegated Cosmetic S4 Injections some time ago to guide all medical practitioners as to best practice.

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The Cosmetic Physicians Society of Australasia

CPSA members are dedicated, trained, registered doctors who offer medically proven cosmetic treatments. The CPSA continually monitors and upholds the ethics of its members and ensures they are kept up to date on the latest medically proven techniques. For further information on the CPSA visit www.cosmeticphysicians.org.au