

Appendix

Statutory Scope Comparison – Post-Surgical Trauma Remodeling Services

Maryland Health Occupations & Business Occupations Review

This appendix provides a focused comparison of current Maryland statutory frameworks as they relate to structured post-surgical trauma remodeling bodywork delivered during cosmetic surgical recovery. It is submitted to assist the Committee in evaluating whether existing statutes clearly contemplate this emerging category of service.

1. Massage Therapy

Maryland Health Occupations Article, Title 6

Title 6 governs licensed massage therapists and registered massage practitioners. The statute defines massage therapy as the use of manual techniques on soft tissues for therapeutic purposes.

Massage statutes were drafted to regulate soft tissue manipulation performed for therapeutic or wellness purposes. Post-surgical trauma remodeling services differ in material respects:

- They are delivered to tissue that has recently undergone surgical incision, undermining, liposuction, or structural alteration.
- They occur during active inflammatory and remodeling phases of recovery.
- They frequently incorporate techniques and mechanical devices that extend beyond traditional massage or manual lymphatic drainage modalities as commonly defined in training programs.

Title 6 does not expressly address structured manual intervention on recently surgically altered tissue during early recovery. As a result, post-surgical services are often categorized as massage, even though the statutory framework does not clearly contemplate this specialized recovery context.

2. Nursing

Maryland Health Occupations Article, Title 8

Title 8 governs registered nurses and licensed practical nurses. Nursing practice includes clinical assessment, care planning, and provision of delegated medical services under physician oversight.

Massage therapy remains a separately regulated profession in Maryland. The practice of nursing does not independently authorize the performance of massage therapy when such services fall within Title 6 regulation.

Post-surgical trauma remodeling bodywork services are often delivered outside formal physician delegation models and outside structured nursing care plans. Independent elective bodywork services provided without medical delegation do not align squarely with statutory nursing authority as defined under Title 8.

The statute does not provide explicit language addressing independent post-surgical manual recovery services performed outside clinical supervision.

3. Physical Therapy

Maryland Health Occupations Article, Title 13

Title 13 governs the practice of physical therapy. Physical therapy is defined as evaluation and treatment of movement dysfunction, injury, or impairment with the goal of restoring functional mobility and physical performance.

Surgical procedures may create temporary impairment; however, physical therapy statutes center on rehabilitation of movement, strength, neuromuscular function, and mobility deficits.

Post-surgical trauma remodeling services in the cosmetic population are typically directed toward:

- Edema modulation
- Fibrotic tissue management
- Aesthetic contour stabilization

- Management of post-liposuction and post-undermining tissue response

These goals differ from traditional rehabilitative endpoints focused on restoring functional mobility.

In addition, structured education pathways within accredited physical therapy programs are not specifically designed around cosmetic post-surgical edema management and trauma remodeling in elective aesthetic populations.

Most providers currently delivering post-surgical bodywork services do not hold physical therapy licensure and are not operating under Title 13 authority. As a result, this service category exists outside standard physical therapy educational and licensure frameworks.

4. Cosmetology / Esthetics

Maryland Business Occupations and Professions Article, Title 5

Title 5 governs cosmetologists and estheticians, whose scope centers on beautification and skin care services.

Post-surgical trauma remodeling services frequently involve manual techniques directed at deeper soft tissue layers during active recovery from surgical alteration. These services extend beyond surface-level skin treatments contemplated within cosmetology and esthetics statutes.