

Use of laser technology for laser hair removal and laser resurfacing by licensed dentist – Advisory Opinion.

SDCL § 36-6A-1(17) defines dentistry as “the examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prevention, or treatment, including surgery and the prescribing of drugs, of diseases, disorders, or conditions of the human oral cavity or its adjacent or associated tissues and structures of the maxillofacial area, and their impact on the human body.” The use of laser technology for laser hair removal and laser resurfacing in the adjacent or associated tissues and structures of the oral cavity would be considered within a dentist’s scope of practice provided that the dentist has received the appropriate training and experience to perform such procedures.

This advisory opinion was rendered by the Board upon submission of a written request. Although advisory opinions are not judicially reviewable and do not have the force and effect of law, they do serve as a guideline for dentists who wish to engage in safe dental practices. This advisory opinion was adopted at the regular meeting of the South Dakota Board of Dentistry on January 11, 2019.