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STRANGER DANGER

JUST HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT WHO IS FILLING YOUR FACE?

BY JOLENE EDGAR

It's one of the biggest hot-button issues in aesthetic medicine today—an ongoing controversy, one embroiling providers of every kind and affecting millions of patients: who to trust with fillers and toxins. Much of the discord between leaders in the field springs not from sensationalism or ego, but a passionate, evidence-based desire to deliver results that are beautiful, bespoke, and above all, safe. Our experts have unique viewpoints and experiences—each worthy of consideration and respect. Our goal is to present all sides in hopes of carefully informing your beauty decisions.

Physicians specializing in aesthetic medicine then receive injectables training through residency and cosmetic fellowship programs. Extenders, on the other hand, typically learn to inject by shadowing MDs and taking voluntary classes, but “there’s no formalized or regulated injectables certification for nurses and PAs,” says New York dermatologist Paul Jarrod Frank, MD.

Given these regulations, how is it that an injectable bar can be manned exclusively by RNs? “The legal way to do this is to use telemedicine for the diagnosis and treatment plan,” explains Byrd. In many states, a supervising physician need only be available by phone. “Their physical distance from the practice they oversee is something of a gray area,” says Thiersch. And that doctor needn’t have any aesthetic training, which is a frequent phenomenon, notes Dr. Frank: “A nurse in New York City will FaceTime with an anesthesiologist in Jersey, who receives a kickback to sign off on the procedure.”

Questions to Ask Your Injector

1. How often do you inject this type of filler?

▼ You want someone who does this full-time, not as a side hustle. “If they tell you five times a week as opposed to 20 times a day, find a more experienced provider,” says Dr. Frank.