

# Med spas need stronger regulation

Medical spas and wellness clinics (collectively “med spas”) offering cosmetic and medical treatments (injectables, IV therapies, GLP-1 weight-loss drugs, etc.) have expanded across the U.S. **These facilities operate on the edge of regulatory frameworks, which are not designed to oversee their specific activities.**

Just thirteen states have issued med spa regulations or guidance; only four of those require licensure or registration. Boards of medicine and nursing license individual med spa practitioners, but poor coordination between regulators, jurisdictional confusion, and limited resources prevent robust oversight.

## Patients are exposed to:



### Unsafe medicine

Pharmacies operate under the oversight of boards of pharmacy and within the Drug Supply Chain Security Act, but med spas don't, sometimes obtaining unapproved, compounded, or counterfeit drugs from unchecked sources.



### Improper administration

Inconsistent regulation of GLP-1 medication in med spas leads to variable patient risks. 25 states regulate IV hydration therapy, but only two address GLP-1s, which can cause severe side effects if they are poorly administered.



### Degraded medicine

Even when a product is legitimate, improper storage, handling, or repackaging can degrade it. Med spas often lack training for these safeguards. Boards that oversee injections rarely inspect drug storage or preparation, leaving a significant gap in protecting drug integrity.



### Consumer deception & false advertising

Med spas often mislead patients by advertising popular brand-name drugs such as Ozempic, while dispensing potentially harmful compounded versions. These compounded drugs may not contain the same active ingredient, may be less effective, or may trigger unexpected side effects.

**Every state should grant boards of pharmacy the power to regulate med spas and any facility where prescription drugs are present.** These businesses purchase, store, and administer medicines, and pharmacy boards should be inspecting and supervising them to ensure patient safety.

Learn more about med spa regulation  
at our website:

[www.safemedicines.org/med-spas](http://www.safemedicines.org/med-spas)



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# Patients harmed at med spas



## Massive recalls in Colorado

In 2025, Thrive Health Solutions in Colorado recalled over 1,500 syringes of weight-loss and vitamin injections due to unsafe compounding practices and contamination risks. The company also faces an Eli Lilly lawsuit for false advertising of weight-loss drugs.

## Expired drugs, unlabeled syringes, and missing logs

In 2025, Ohio Board of Pharmacy officials suspended the license of Zinni Family Practice because of expired drugs, unlabeled syringes, poor refrigeration logs, and unsecured prescription blanks.

## Botulism outbreak at cosmetic spa

At least 14 patients developed botulism after Botox injections administered by an aesthetician in Massachusetts in 2025. Boards of medicine or nursing lack jurisdiction in Massachusetts, but Ohio's Board of Pharmacy could have investigated because it classifies med spas as terminal drug distributors.

## Pocketing profits from illegally imported, fake Botox

At Skin Beaute Med Spa in Massachusetts, owner Rebecca Fadanelli allegedly posed as a nurse and performed thousands of procedures using counterfeit Botox, Sculptra, and Juvederm from China and Brazil between 2021 and 2024.

## Infections, injuries, and unlicensed injections

In 2021, patient Bea Amma developed painful, pus-filled sores and a drug-resistant bacterial infection after receiving more than 100 improperly sterilized vitamins and fat-dissolving injections from a clinic in California (photo at right).

## False claims of a COVID cure

In 2020, the FTC warned ReNew Integrated Medical Spa in Texas over misleading Facebook and Instagram posts falsely claiming that its peptides and supplements could treat or prevent COVID-19.



Bea Amma posted photos of her injuries to social media in 2021.