



## AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLASTIC SURGICAL NURSES

### *INTRODUCTION*

The American Society of Plastic Surgical Nurses does not support the use and/or propagation of consumer discount sites including, but not limited to, Groupon, Living Social, and Daily Deals, in order to entice prospective patients for non-surgical aesthetic procedures and plastic surgical procedures.

### *RATIONALE*

Currently, there is no uniform position held by state nursing boards and/or professional healthcare societies. Wide discrepancies exist within the legal interpretations of “fee splitting”, “patient brokering”, and federal anti-kickback laws, which vary from state to state; California, Illinois, and New York are among the few states that enforce legislation strongly opposing and/or sanctioning physicians who use voucher system websites for selling or promoting medical treatments (Wandel & Reed, 2011). Additionally, consumer voucher/discount sites present a significant dilemma with regard to ethical healthcare, as these sites allow the purchase of medical procedures, aesthetic non-surgical and surgical, prior to evaluation of an individual’s health history to determine eligibility for such services.

### *AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLASTIC SURGICAL NURSES POSITION/RECOMMENDATIONS*

- The Registered Nurse, with a focus on patient safety, is required to function within the parameters of the legal scope of practice and in accordance with federal, state, and local laws, rules and regulations; and policies, procedures and guidelines of the employing healthcare institution or practice setting (Texas BON, 2011).
- The professional Registered Nurse is an advocate for the patient and the patient’s family through promoting safety by practicing within the Nurse Practice Act and the Board of Nursing Rules and Regulations (Texas BON, 2011).
- Therefore, it is concluded the plastic surgical nurse is held to the same standard and should demonstrate ethical behavior by discouraging the use of consumer discount sites for non-surgical aesthetic procedures and plastic surgical procedures.
- The plastic surgical nurse should embody nursing as defined by the American Nurses Association; this includes protecting patients from and preventing injuries associated with provision of care (Gelinas, 2015).
- Knowing that Groupon, a consumer discount site, refuses to assume responsibility for the legal implications associated with the delivery of care

in exchange for purchase of a voucher, the plastic surgical nurse should refrain from participating in agreements of this type and exercise caution similar to that of physicians affiliated with the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (Wandel & Reed, 2011).

#### *REFERENCES*

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#### ***DISCLAIMER***

**These clinical practice guidelines and/or recommendations and/or other guidance published herein are provided by the American Society of Plastic Surgical Nurses to assist practitioners in clinical decision-making. The information should not be relied upon as being complete and should not be considered inclusive of all proper treatments, methods of care, or as a statement of the standard of care. All guidelines and recommendations require periodic revision to ensure that clinicians utilize appropriate procedures, and that the materials encompass the recent critical review of literature and expert opinion. The reader must realize that clinical judgment may justify a course of action outside of the recommendations contained herein.**

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