

# **PRACTICING MEDICINE WITHOUT A LICENSE**

*by Susan Preston*

There has been an alarming increase in the number of people who have been offering medical advice to their clients. We are seeing this in the permanent cosmetics and in the body piercing industries.

The scariest issue is that of Benadryl, an over the counter medication. For some reason lately we are seeing pre-procedure forms that recommend taking Benadryl to limit the pain of a procedure. This is a really bad idea as I know from personal experience. Years ago I had permanent eyeliner work done at 8:00pm at night in a city 70 miles north of Birmingham, Alabama. I was given two Benadryl prior to the procedure to relax me. After the work was done, I had to drive back to Birmingham where my hotel was. That was the longest ride of my life. I nearly fell asleep and went off the road three times and fought the entire way back to stay awake and out of the way of the semi-trucks who drive at night.

The person giving me the Benadryl and the permanent makeup work put herself in a huge liability situation as well as committing a crime. She could have been liable for any resulting accident from that drive back and she could have been additionally tried in criminal court for practicing medicine without a license.

Never recommend that a person take any kind of pill prior to getting work from you. This is practicing medicine, even if the item is an over the counter medication.

If you feel a person is taking a medication that is contra-indicated to the work you are doing, then have them see their doctor and get a release before coming to you. It is acceptable to recommend this course of action with a doctor's help, but do not be proactive in telling them what to take. This can only lead to disaster.