

PICOWAY®

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Condensed Executive Summary

Manufacturer	Candela Corporation	Core wavelengths	1064 nm and 532 nm
U.S. platform history	Initial FDA clearance in 2014	Estimated new price	\$250,000–\$325,000 planning range
Executive assessment. PicoWay is a mature premium platform distinguished by four available true picosecond wavelengths, broad U.S. indications, strong skin-type coverage and multiple full-beam and fractional delivery options.			

What It Is

PicoWay is Candela's multi-wavelength picosecond Nd:YAG platform for tattoo removal, benign pigmented lesions and fractional skin treatments. The 1064 nm and 532 nm wavelengths form the platform core; dedicated 730 nm and 785 nm applicators broaden blue/green tattoo and pigment coverage. Resolve and Resolve Fusion handpieces fractionate 532 nm and/or 1064 nm energy for wrinkles, acne scars and selected pigment indications.

FDA and Market History

PicoWay received its initial U.S. FDA 510(k) clearance on October 30, 2014 for tattoo removal using 1064 nm and 532 nm. The system began entering the U.S. market in late 2014 and expanded through a sequence of clearances: benign pigmented lesions in 2015, the 785 nm applicator in 2016, Resolve fractional indications in 2017, the 730 nm applicator in 2019, and expanded pigment and melasma indications in 2022.

Core Specifications

Specification	Published value / buyer interpretation
Laser architecture	Nd:YAG-based picosecond platform with 1064/532 nm generation and dedicated 730/785 nm applicators.
Pulse duration	Approximately 339 ps at 1064 nm, 294 ps at 532 nm, 246–250 ps at 730 nm and about 300 ps at 785 nm in public materials; verify exact applicator.
Pulse energy	Energy and fluence vary materially by wavelength, spot size and handpiece; obtain the current technical schedule rather than relying on one universal mJ value.
Spot sizes	Zoom spot sizes vary by wavelength; public materials commonly describe ranges up to 10 mm. Dedicated and fractional applicators use fixed treatment patterns.
Repetition rate	Up to 10 Hz in selected modes/configurations; available rate depends on wavelength, energy and applicator.
Beam/fractional delivery	Full-beam Zoom plus Resolve microbeam and Resolve Fusion delivery; exact handpiece package is configuration-dependent.

Principal Strengths

- **Established platform and manufacturer history.** PicoWay has been cleared and commercially available in the United States since 2014.
- **Broad wavelength portfolio.** A fully configured system provides 1064, 532, 730 and 785 nm for wide tattoo-color and pigment coverage.
- **Strong skin-type versatility.** The 1064 nm tattoo indication extends through Fitzpatrick skin type VI, while several pigment and fractional indications cover multiple skin types.
- **Broad U.S. indication set.** Current labeling covers tattoos, benign pigmented lesions, melasma, café-au-lait macules, lentigines, nevus of Ota, acne scars and wrinkles, with wavelength-specific limitations.
- **Multiple beam-delivery modes.** Zoom, full-beam, Resolve microbeam and Resolve Fusion options support tattoo, pigment and fractional treatment strategies.

Limitations and Buyer Risks

- **Premium acquisition cost.** A reasonable new-system planning range is approximately \$250,000–\$325,000 for a well-configured platform, but current written quotations control.
- **Full versatility depends on options.** The 730 nm, 785 nm and fractional handpieces may materially increase the configured price.
- **Configuration complexity.** Indications, pulse duration, spot size and treatment coverage depend on the selected wavelength and applicator.
- **Electrical and site requirements.** PicoWay generally requires dedicated 200–240 V service and site planning rather than a standard 110/120 V receptacle.
- **Commercial terms are not transparent.** Warranty duration, service pricing and third-party ownership-transfer or inspection fees are not consistently published.

Best Fit

PicoWay may be best suited for an established dermatology, plastic-surgery, tattoo-removal or high-volume aesthetic practice that wants a premium multi-wavelength platform, broad FDA-cleared treatment coverage, strong relevance across skin types and both full-beam and fractional delivery. It is especially compelling when the practice will actually use the optional 730/785 nm tattoo-color coverage and Resolve family for pigment, wrinkles or acne scars.

Ownership Considerations

Buyer item	What to confirm in writing
Estimated new list price	\$250,000–\$325,000 for a well-configured system; options, applicators, training and commercial package materially affect price.
Standard warranty	Not publicly standardized; obtain duration and parts/labor/travel, optics and handpiece terms in writing.
Service organization	Established Candela U.S. support network; response time and coverage remain contract-specific.
Preventive maintenance / service contract	Quote required. Premium-system service costs can be significant after warranty expiration.

Bottom Line

PicoWay occupies a leading premium position in the U.S. pico-laser market. Its strongest advantage is breadth: a fully configured system combines four true picosecond wavelengths with full-beam, microbeam and Fusion delivery and one of the category's broadest current FDA-cleared indication sets. Its main purchasing limitation is configuration economics—advertised platform capability may depend on separately priced applicators and handpieces.

Buyer note: Specifications, indications, pricing, warranty and service terms should be verified for the exact quoted configuration. This profile is a purchasing aid, not clinical, legal or regulatory advice.