

FACULTY OF PHARMACEUTICAL MEDICINE

REVALIDATION POLICIES

POLICY: **Cosmetic Interventions**

VERSION: **2.0**

APPROVAL DATE: **1st July 2025**

REVIEW DATE **1st July 2028**

1. Purpose

This policy provides guidance to appraisers who have appraisees undertaking cosmetic interventions based on the GMC document 'Cosmetic interventions' [This guidance came into effect 1 June 2016 and was last updated on 13 December 2024].

If an appraisee performs cosmetic interventions, the questions in this policy document act as a guide for an appraiser led discussion of this element of the appraisee's scope of practice.

2. Definition

Cosmetic intervention means any intervention, procedure or treatment carried out with the primary objective of changing an aspect of a patient's physical appearance. This includes surgical and non-surgical procedures, both invasive and non-invasive.

3. Questions

Where an appraisee performs cosmetic interventions, Faculty policy is that the following questions act as a guide for an appraiser led discussion of this element of the appraisee's scope of practice. The questions are based on the GMC document 'Cosmetic interventions' which provides essential information for doctors practising in this area. In some cases, it sets a higher standard than other GMC guidance to address the specific safety issues and ethical concerns particular to the cosmetic sector. The GMC guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gmc-uk.org/professional-standards/the-professional-standards/cosmetic-interventions>

What is your approach to obtaining a patient’s consent to an intervention? Do you seek this yourself or do you delegate the responsibility?
How do you make sure patients are given enough time and information before they decide whether or not to have an intervention?
In what ways do you consider your patients’ psychological needs and whether referral to another experienced professional colleague is appropriate?
What are the methods used to ensure that you recognise and work within the limits of your competence? Do you seek advice when necessary and if so how and from whom?
How do you make sure patients have the information they want or need, including written information that supports continuity of care and includes relevant information about the medicines or devices used?
When considering requests for interventions on children and young people, what particular care do you take to ensure it is in their best interests?
How do ensure you market your services responsibly, avoiding making unjustifiable claims about interventions, trivialising risks and avoiding the use of promotional tactics that might encourage people to make ill-considered decisions?
Do you perform your work under the supervision of an experienced aesthetic practitioner who holds appropriate qualifications in aesthetic medicine? Is your work audited by a professional body which accredits aesthetic practitioners?

As with all doctors in all fields of medicine, those offering cosmetic interventions must:

- work in partnership with patients, treating them with respect and dignity
- keep patients safe, work to improve safety and report safety concerns
- work effectively with colleagues
- keep up to date with and follow relevant law and guidance
- be open and honest about your skills, experience, fees and conflicts of interests
- be cognisant of and comply with GMC guidance Good Medical Practice 2024

Any doctor undertaking such clinical contact will need to ensure they also comply with the Clinical Review Policy.