

Policy on the training and expertise necessary for doctors to safely perform cosmetic procedures

Cosmetic procedures

1. Cosmetic procedures revise or change the appearance, colour, texture, structure or position of bodily features with the sole purpose of achieving what the patient perceives to be a more desirable appearance.¹
2. Procedures with a medical justification, including gender affirming surgery, are not considered cosmetic procedures.
3. The Council has categorised cosmetic procedures according to the training and expertise required to safely and competently deliver the best outcomes for the patient and minimise risk of harm.

There are three categories:

- a. Category 1: Surgical
 - b. Category 2: Complex non-surgical
 - c. Category 3: Low-complexity non-surgical.
4. Doctors performing cosmetic procedures must undertake continuing professional development activities based on the doctor's actual work.
 5. Every cosmetic procedure has risks. A doctor must have the necessary training and expertise to optimise the outcome for the patient and minimise risk of harm. Not every doctor has the training to perform all cosmetic procedures.
 - a. When assessing risk, factors to consider include use of anaesthesia, anatomical location of the procedure, and the patient's current health status and medical history.
 6. Doctors may only perform cosmetic procedures in line with this policy. This will ensure the doctor has the necessary training, expertise and experience to safely perform a cosmetic procedure and manage any risks.

Category 1: Surgical cosmetic procedures

7. 'Category 1' refers to surgical cosmetic procedures that involve cutting beneath the skin.

Examples include breast augmentation, breast reduction, rhinoplasty, otoplasty, surgical face lifts, liposuction, fat transfer, abdominoplasty, blepharoplasty, tumescent liposuction, and cosmetic genital surgery.

8. Surgical or dermatological training is required to safely perform Category 1 procedures, to optimise outcomes for the patient and minimise risk of harm.

¹ Other terms may be used to refer to cosmetic procedures, such as 'appearance medicine' or 'aesthetic surgery'.

9. Doctors who meet the following criteria may perform Category 1, Category 2, and Category 3 procedures.

A doctor must be:

- a. vocationally registered and practising in a surgical scope of practice² or dermatology; or
- b. participating in a Council-accredited surgical or dermatology vocational training programme.

Category 2: complex non-surgical cosmetic procedures

10. 'Category 2' refers to complex non-surgical cosmetic procedures that do not involve cutting beneath the skin but may involve piercing the skin.
11. Examples include non-surgical cosmetic varicose vein treatment, dermal fillers (also known as soft tissue fillers), dermabrasion, thread lifts, sclerotherapy, microsclerotherapy, hair replacement therapy or transplants, and use of CO2 lasers to cut the skin.
12. An extended vocational scope of practice, or surgical or dermatological training, is required to safely perform Category 2 procedures and minimise risk of harm to the patient.
13. Doctors who meet the following criteria may only perform Category 2 and Category 3 procedures.
- a. A doctor must be:
 - i. registered and practising in a vocational scope of practice; or
 - ii. participating in a Council-accredited vocational training programme.
 - b. A doctor must also:
 - i. have completed Council-approved cosmetic procedures training and have a Council-approved extension to their scope of practice³; or
 - ii. be participating in Council-approved cosmetic procedures training and performing Category 2 and 3 cosmetic procedures only as part of that training.

Category 3: low-complexity non-surgical cosmetic procedures

14. 'Category 3' refers to low-complexity non-surgical cosmetic procedures that do not involve cutting beneath the skin but may involve piercing the skin.
15. Examples include cosmetic injectables such as Botulinum toxin and, chemical peels, cryolipolysis (fat freezing), fat dissolving injections, laser skin treatments, laser hair removal, and mole removal for purposes of appearance (this is classified as non-surgical even though it may involve cutting beneath the skin).
16. An extended general scope of practice, or an extended vocational scope of practice, or surgical or dermatological training, is required to safely perform Category 3 procedures and minimise risk of harm to the patient.

² Surgical scopes of practice are: Cardiothoracic Surgery, General Surgery, Neurosurgery, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Ophthalmology, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Orthopaedic Surgery, Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery, Paediatric Surgery, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Urology, and Vascular Surgery.

³ 'Extensions' to a scope of practice are permitted under section 21 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003. This allows the Council to authorise a doctor to perform activities that are outside those ordinarily permitted within their gazetted scope of practice.

17. Doctors who meet the following criteria may only perform Category 3 cosmetic procedures.

A doctor must be registered and practising in the general scope of practice; and

- a. have completed Council-approved cosmetic procedures training and have a Council-approved extension to their scope of practice; or
- b. be participating in Council-approved cosmetic procedures training and performing Category 3 cosmetic procedures only as part of that training.

18. To obtain an extension, for the purposes of this Framework, a doctor must apply to the Council, providing evidence of the completion of the required Council-approved cosmetic procedures training. The doctor may not undertake cosmetic procedures until Council has approved the application and the Register has been undated to reflect that approval.

19. A doctor registered in the provisional general scope of practice is not permitted to perform any cosmetic procedures.

Quick reference – summary of which doctors may perform which categories of procedures

20. This table is a quick-reference representation of the criteria listed above.

	Can a doctor perform these procedures?		
	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
Surgeon (vocational registration)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Doctor in surgical vocational training	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dermatologist (vocational registration)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Doctor in dermatological vocational training	Yes	Yes	Yes
Doctor with vocational registration (not surgical or dermatological)	No	Yes subject to extended scope requirements	Yes subject to extended scope requirements
Doctor in vocational training (not surgical or dermatology)	No	Yes subject to extended scope requirements	Yes subject to extended scope requirements
Doctor with general registration	No	No	Yes subject to extended scope requirements
Doctor with provisional general registration	No	No	No