



Cosmetic Surgery Certification: Application Guidelines*

Please ensure that you review the application requirements that are **relevant for where you are based, e.g., the requirements **for applicants based in the UK** or the requirements for **applicants based in the Republic of Ireland**.*

A. Introduction

1. The Intercollegiate Cosmetic Surgery Certification Scheme is supported by a process that aims to provide accreditation of competences (including professional behaviours, clinical skills, knowledge, and experience) in defined areas of cosmetic surgery.

It was initially developed by the Royal College of Surgeons of England through a Cosmetic Surgery Interspecialty Committee comprising a wide range of stakeholders including representatives of the surgical colleges in the UK and Ireland, the relevant Surgical Specialty Associations (SSAs), patients, providers, and regulators. Its role was to respond to the review into the regulation of cosmetic interventions in 2013, led by the Department of Health, which recommended a more robust regulatory framework that provides protection against the potential risks from cosmetic procedures.

2. The certification process outlined in this document is an important step in this direction by recognising those surgeons who have the appropriate training, qualifications, and experience in the area, of cosmetic surgery in which they practise, by supporting patient choice and by promoting confidence in the quality of training and practice in cosmetic surgery.

The process and the criteria on which it relies have been reviewed and updated by the Intercollegiate Cosmetic Surgery Oversight Committee.

This document provides guidelines on the principles underpinning certification in cosmetic surgery, including:

- eligibility and criteria
- application and assessment process
- maintaining certification

B. Scope of certification

3. Cosmetic surgery involves the choice to undergo an operation, or invasive medical procedure, to alter one's physical appearance for aesthetic rather than medical reasons. It is rarely available through the NHS, primarily taking place in the private sector. There must be overriding physical or psychological reasons for it to be considered as a treatment option in the NHS.

The scope of certification extends to invasive surgical cosmetic procedures and includes non-surgical cosmetic procedures such as Botox®, dermal fillers and chemical peels. Invasive cosmetic procedures have been defined in the *Professional Standards for Cosmetic Practice* (RCS, 2013) as: 'Operations and all other invasive medical procedures where the primary aim is the change, the restoration, normalisation or improvement of the appearance, the function and well-being at the request of an individual.'

Invasive treatments are categorised as follows:

Level 1a

Medium-high risk; may require general anaesthetic; may require overnight stay.

Level 1b

Low-medium risk; usually only require local anaesthetic; performed as an outpatient.

For non-surgical cosmetic interventions that do not fall under the above definitions (including hair restoration), Health Education England (HEE) has developed a set of qualification requirements, which is available through the HEE website.

C. Eligibility

4. Certification is open to all surgeons who are on the GMC specialist register or who are registered with the Irish Medical Council in a surgical specialty that provides training and experience related to the area of cosmetic surgery in which they practise. There are eleven available areas of certification, based on a categorisation of cosmetic surgical procedures and non-surgical cosmetic procedures into groups of closely related operations. These procedures are grouped anatomically and the operations within the groups have overlapping requirements of skills and training. The available areas of certification and the corresponding GMC/IMC registration/specialty training are:

Area of certification*	GMC / IMC Specialist Registration
Cosmetic breast surgery	» Plastic surgery » General surgery (with a declared interest in breast surgery)
Cosmetic nasal surgery	» Plastic surgery » Otolaryngology » Oral and maxillofacial surgery
Cosmetic surgery of the periorbital region	» Plastic surgery » Ophthalmology (with a declared interest in oculoplastic surgery) » Oral and maxillofacial surgery » Otolaryngology
Cosmetic surgery of the ear	» Plastic surgery » Otolaryngology » Oral and maxillofacial surgery
Cosmetic facial contouring surgery	» Otolaryngology » Oral and maxillofacial surgery » Plastic surgery
Cosmetic surgery of the face	» Plastic surgery » Oral and maxillofacial surgery » Otolaryngology
Cosmetic surgery of the face/nose/periorbital region/ears	» Plastic surgery » Oral and maxillofacial surgery » Otolaryngology
Cosmetic body contouring surgery	» Plastic surgery
Massive weight loss surgery (MWL) – Supplementary certificate in body contouring following massive weight loss	» Plastic surgery
Cosmetic Surgery	» Plastic surgery
Non-Surgical Cosmetic Procedures	» Plastic surgery » Otolaryngology » Oral and maxillofacial surgery » Ophthalmology (with a declared interest in oculoplastic surgery).

*Full information on the scope of each certification area and the specific cosmetic procedures it encompasses is provided in Appendix II.

4. Surgeons are, able to obtain certification in more than one area within the scope of their specialty training.
5. Surgeons who practise predominantly in countries other than the UK and the Republic of Ireland are also eligible to apply for certification provided they are on the GMC/IMC specialist register in the appropriate specialty (see table under 4 above). Surgeons who are registered with Irish Medical Council and have completed their CCST (Republic of Ireland) in the appropriate specialty are eligible to apply under the criteria relevant for Ireland. Surgeons who have not completed an approved training programme in the UK can still enter the GMC specialist register in the required specialty by applying for the GMC's Certificate of Eligibility for Specialist Registration (CESR). More information on the CESR route to the GMC specialist register is available through GMC website at: www.gmc-uk.org/doctors/24630.asp

D. Criteria

6. In addition to entry on the GMC register/Irish Medical Council Specialist Register and the corresponding specialty training, certification is based on a series of criteria and evidence that demonstrate competence in:
 - a. professional behaviours.
 - b. clinical skills and experience.
7. **Summary of the criteria for certification for applicants based in the UK is as follows:**
 - **Probity** - Knowledge and acceptance of the professional responsibilities set out in the GMC's *Guidance for All Doctors Who Offer Cosmetic Interventions* (GMC, 2016) and the *Professional Standards for Cosmetic Surgery* (RCS, 2016).
 - **PBAS course** - attendance at the 'Professional Behaviours in Aesthetic Surgery' (PBAS) course for aesthetic/cosmetic surgery.
 - **Indemnity Insurance** - professional indemnity insurance that covers cosmetic practice in the UK.
 - **Revalidation** - successful revalidation that has taken cosmetic practice into account.
 - **Continuing Professional Development (CPD)** - CPD activities relevant to cosmetic practice.
 - **Reflections of Practice** - four complex case reviews, (per application, not per certificate) or alternatively, applicants can provide evidence of reflection on practice.
 - **Operation Numbers** - exposure to a minimum number of procedures relevant to the area of certification.
 - **Clinical Outcomes** - clinical outcomes in line with the requirements of the Competition and Markets Authority, with reflection on results.
 - **References** - two references per application, one of whom should be from your clinical director, or a referee nominated by your clinical director, and the other a senior colleague/consultant practising either in the same area of cosmetic surgery or at your main provider.

Summary of the criteria for certification for applicants based in the Republic of Ireland is as follows:

- **Probity** - knowledge and acceptance of the professional responsibilities set out in the GMC's '*Guidance for All Doctors Who Offer Cosmetic Interventions*' (GMC, 2016) and the '*Professional Standards for Cosmetic Surgery*' (RCS, 2016), and the Irish Medical Council '*Guide to Professional Conduct and Ethics for Registered Medical Professionals*'.
- **PBAS course** - attendance at an accredited 'Professional Behaviours in Aesthetic Surgery' (PBAS) course for aesthetic/cosmetic surgery.
- **Indemnity Insurance** - professional indemnity insurance that covers cosmetic practice in the Republic of Ireland.

- **Annual Medical Council Registration** - evidence of annual Irish Medical Council registration, evidence of annual enrolment in a Professional Competence Scheme (PCS), evidence of compliance with annual PCS requirement.
- **Professional Competence Scheme** - current annual statement confirming of compliance with the Irish Medical Council Maintenance of Professional Competence (IMC/PCS). Applicants must ensure that their PCS and self-administered audits are aimed towards cosmetic practice.
- **Reflections on Practice** - four complex case reviews, (per application, not per certificate) or alternatively, applicants can provide evidence of reflection on practice.
- **Operation Numbers** - exposure to a minimum number of procedures relevant to the area of certification.
- **Clinical Outcomes** – applicants must complete the 'Operation Numbers Credit Counter' and a letter from the Healthcare organisation where you work, confirming your clinical ability and professional behaviours in regards, to your private, cosmetic practice.
- **References** - two references per application, one of whom should be from your clinical director, or a referee nominated by your clinical director, and the other a senior colleague/consultant practising either in the same area of cosmetic surgery or at your main provider.

Summary of the criteria for certification for applicants who wish to apply for *both* the UK *and* the Republic of Ireland Certificates

- Both sets of criteria must be fulfilled.
- Certificates ONLY apply to the jurisdiction for which they are issued and are NOT interchangeable.

A full description of the criteria and associated evidence, including any variations for surgeons in training or those who practise predominantly overseas, is provided in Appendices I and II.

E. Application and assessment

8. Candidates can apply for certification by registering on the online Cosmetic Surgery Certification Portal at the following weblink: www.certify-cosmeticsurgery.org.uk

The Portal is a secure, web-based system that will guide you step-by-step through the application process and will allow you to upload and store all required evidence for certification. You can access professional guidance and information relevant to certification through the Portal, including tools and templates for specific categories of evidence. You will also be able to track the status of your application and contact the certification support team with any questions.

9. As part of the online application process, you will be asked to pay an application fee. You can apply for more than one certificate in different certification areas at the same time for no additional application fee. The application fee does not include the fee for the mandatory 'Professional Behaviours in Aesthetic Surgery' (PBAS) course for aesthetic/ cosmetic surgery, which will need to be paid for separately. Prices for the 'Professional Behaviours in Aesthetic Surgery' course will be set by the education provider. For all course enquiries please contact the helpdesk: apply@certify-cosmeticsurgery.org.uk
10. Your application will be assessed by two independent surgeons (who have been certified themselves), who have received dedicated training for assessing applications. There is a team of evaluators with representation from each of the recognised surgical specialties. The evaluators assigned to each application will review elements of the submitted evidence and each will make a decision about awarding certification. We will endeavour to ensure that at least one of the evaluators practises specifically in the certification area. An evaluator may ask for further evidence from an applicant if the information is unclear or missing. If the evaluators fail to agree on the outcome of an application, further evidence may be requested, or the matter may be submitted to the Intercollegiate Cosmetic Surgery Oversight Committee (ICSOC) for discussion.
11. Once a complete application has been submitted, a decision will normally be made within 28 business days. This timeframe might be longer if any of the required information is missing or if further clarification is required. A hard copy of your certificate(s) will be sent to the address you provided on the Portal, as well as an electronic copy of your certificate(s). Additional hard copies of a certificate can be requested for a small administrative fee.

F. Maintaining certification

12. To maintain certification, applicants will have to apply for renewal every five years at the point of their first successful certification.
13. Applicants will not have to repeat the original certification process or re-submit the same portfolio of evidence to maintain certification. Please review the below requirements for applicants based in the UK and applicants based in the Republic of Ireland:

UK Applicants Maintaining Certification

They will be required to confirm that their details have not changed and that they continue to comply with the order of the Competition and Markets Authority for collection and publication of clinical outcomes data (see also paragraph 28 of this document). They will also be required to confirm that they have been contributing evidence about their cosmetic practice to their annual appraisal discussion as part of the existing requirement for whole practice appraisal for the purposes of revalidation. This includes relevant CPD activities about clinical and professional aspects of their practice, multi-source feedback and a regular audit of outcomes data as described in paragraph 28 of this document.

Republic of Ireland Applicants Maintaining Certification

Applicants will be required to confirm that their details have not changed and provide a letter from the Healthcare organisation where you work, confirming your clinical ability and professional behaviours in regards, to your private, cosmetic practice, as well as evidence of their annual Irish Medical Council registration. They will also be required to confirm that they have been contributing evidence about their cosmetic practice by providing evidence of their annual statement of compliance with the Irish Medical Council Maintenance of Professional Competence (IMC/PCS).

14. Renewal of certification will take place through the online Portal, for which there will be a fee of £250.

Appendix I – Evidence requirements

15. The information and categories of evidence described in this section are a requirement for all areas of certification and are in principle the same for all applicants. Where there are variations for surgeons who practise predominantly overseas, or for surgeons who have recently completed their training, this is specifically indicated. All evidence should be submitted on the Portal, where applicants will be guided to provide information and upload relevant documentation as part of the application process.

16. **Registration on the GMC specialist register or with the Irish Medical Council in a surgical specialty that corresponds to the certification area ***
(see section C of this document).

UK based applicants are asked to provide their GMC number and confirm the surgical specialty in which they are listed on the GMC register.

Republic of Ireland applicants will need to provide their IMC (Irish Medical Council) registration number. **General surgeons should also confirm that they have a special interest/specialisation in breast surgery, and ophthalmologists in oculoplastic surgery.*

17. **Declaration of no suspensions or restrictions of practice**

Applicants are asked to declare that they are not subject to any suspensions or restrictions on their practice at the time of application.

Applicants must inform the secretariat if, at the time of application, they are under investigation by the GMC or the IMC. The nature of any investigation will be assessed by a clinical evaluator on a case-by-case basis and will not necessarily result in an unsuccessful application.

Declaration of knowledge and acceptance of professional responsibilities set by the GMC and the Surgical Royal Colleges. The following documents set out the principles underpinning the Intercollegiate Certification Scheme and all surgeons who practise cosmetic surgery are expected to have knowledge and understanding of the GMC's *Guidance for Doctors Who Offer Cosmetic Interventions* (GMC, 2016) and the *Professional Standards for Cosmetic Surgery* (RCS, 2016). Applicants from any jurisdiction are, therefore, asked to declare that they accept the professional responsibilities placed on them by the above two documents in relation to ethical behaviours and practices when offering cosmetic interventions.

18. 'Professional Behaviours in Aesthetic Surgery' (PBAS) course for aesthetic/cosmetic surgery

All applicants are required to attend and meet the requirements of a 'Professional Behaviours in Aesthetic Surgery' (PBAS) course, as this is one of the most significant areas that impact on patient satisfaction, quality, and safety in aesthetic surgery.

19. Professional Indemnity Insurance

Applicants are required to have professional indemnity insurance that specifically covers their cosmetic practice in the UK (*if you are an applicant based in the UK*) or that their indemnity insurance specifically covers their cosmetic practice in the Republic of Ireland (*if you are an applicant based in the Republic of Ireland*). They will be asked to confirm their indemnity arrangements and provide the name of their medical defence organisation or insurance provider as well as their membership number or insurance policy number. Surgeons who practise predominantly overseas and whose insurance provider is not based in the UK or the Republic of Ireland, must provide additional evidence to demonstrate that their insurance provider is aware of their practice in the UK *or* the Republic of Ireland and provides adequate cover for it. Examples of such additional evidence include a copy of their indemnity policy, their indemnity certificate, or a letter by the insurance provider.

20. Revalidation and Irish Medical Council Registration

For UK based applicants: Revalidation

Applicants are asked to provide information about their revalidation to demonstrate that they are up to date in the areas in which they practise. This includes details of their designated body, the date of their most recent revalidation along with the GMC's revalidation confirmation, and the date of their next revalidation.

Applicants should upload a summary of their appraisals as signed off by the applicant's appraiser and the designated body. Applicants whose most recent revalidation took place during their training or at the point of CCT should upload an ARCP Outcome 6 form or a RITA G form. They may also wish to upload an evidence summary of their ARCP (including details such as date of CCT, names of reviewers, next date of revalidation), an exit report and/or multisource feedback. Where an applicant's practice encompasses work across multiple organisations, the applicant is required to provide information about any safety incidents, legal claims, and patient complaints they have been involved in in each organisation during the last appraisal period, normally confirmed by the head of department or the chief of medical service in each organisation.

Applicants' appraisals should include evidence from their whole practice, including their cosmetic practice. Surgeons who submit evidence for certification from the first cycle of revalidation are required to have undertaken at least one appraisal for the purposes of revalidation that has taken into account their cosmetic practice. They will also be asked to confirm that they will be including evidence of their cosmetic practice in all future appraisals.

For Republic of Ireland based applicants: Registration with the Irish Medical Council

Applicants are asked to provide information about their:

- Evidence of annual Irish Medical Council registration.
- Evidence of annual enrolment in a Professional Competence Scheme (PCS).
- Evidence of compliance with annual PCS requirement.
- Current annual statement confirming of compliance with the Irish Medical Council Maintenance of Professional Competence Statement (PCS).

21. Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and Professional Competence Scheme (PCS)

For UK based applicants: Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Activity

Applicants should provide evidence of having undertaken continuing professional development (CPD) activities in the area, of certification. Surgeons are normally expected to collect 50 credits of CPD activity per year, or 250 credits across the 5-year revalidation cycle, spread proportionately across all areas of their practice.

Detailed guidance on CPD requirements for surgery can be found by clicking on the following link:

www.rcseng.ac.uk/standards-and-research/standards-and-guidance/revalidation/cpd/

Applicants can upload an extract from their last appraisal highlighting their CPD activity or alternatively,

applicants can provide a summary of their CPD activities in relation to their cosmetic practice during the last revalidation cycle.

For Republic of Ireland based applicants: Professional Competence Scheme (PCS).

Applicants need to provide their Professional Competence Scheme certificate and their current annual statement confirming of compliance with the Irish Medical Council Maintenance of Professional Competence Scheme.

22. Reflection on Practice

All applicants are required to demonstrate reflection on practice by providing four complex cases, (per application, not per certificate), across the breadth of cosmetic practice in which they participated and the learning they achieved.

The four cases can be complex because of technical challenges posed by the condition, unexpected complications, breakdown of the patient–doctor relationship, systems failure or other reasons and should show evidence of participation in consultation/post-consultation debrief sessions from any of the following groups:

- Planning of technically challenging cases, e.g., revision/salvage aesthetic surgery.
- Patient/surgeon challenges, e.g., failure to meet patient's expectations, or breakdown in communication.
- Managing complications following cosmetic surgery.
- Provision of a second opinion and/or transfer of care following breakdown of a patient–doctor relationship.
- Medicolegal assessment.

The purpose of case reviews is to demonstrate that cosmetic surgeons are engaging in discussion to maintain and enhance the quality of their professional work. The discussion can be with a peer, another specialist, within a multidisciplinary team or, for surgeons in training, with a supervisor. The emphasis of learning from such a meeting/discussion should be the management of the patient's concerns, fears, and expectations, rather than the specifics of the treatment.

Applicants can include up to two reconstructive, symmetrising breast reductions cases, providing that; the surgeon was acting as S1, had made the decision to perform the procedure with the patient, acquired consent and followed the patient through the recovery process. Please note, if a trainee surgeon is just performing the cutting and stitching, this would not be accepted as appropriate for a case discussion. The applicant would have to be acting as S1.

There are numerous ways in which applicants can provide evidence on how they have reflected on their cosmetic practice. Applicants can select one of the three options listed below:

Option 1 – Evidence of reflection of cosmetic practice covering four complex cases or a protocol or procedure that changed practice (per application, not per certificate).

If applicants choose option 1, then a brief written narrative explaining how your evidence covers four complex cases whilst reflecting on your cosmetic practice should be provided.

Applicants may choose to provide evidence of their active participation in an M&M meeting which changed a procedure or local protocol, and which led to an improvement in cosmetic surgery in place of one of the cases required above.

Applicants can also upload the following to demonstrate evidence of their reflection on cosmetic practice (each case/example):

- Evidence of case presentation and participation in peer review or M&M meetings (e.g., minutes of the meeting) which will include summary of cases and reflection.
- Letters to patients which include both pre-operative assessment and follow up notes.
- Pre-operative assessment notes, operation notes and follow up notes.

Identifiable patient information must be **redacted from selected cases, in order, to be in, compliance with GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation).*

Option 2 – Completing Four Written Complex Cases

Applicants can record reviews of four complex cases, (per application, not per certificate), across the breadth of

cosmetic practice in which they participated and the learning they achieved. Applicants can record their cases using the '4 Complex Case Forms' via the Cosmetic Surgery Certification website: www.certify-cosmeticsurgery.org.uk

Option 3 – Combination of the above!

Applicants can choose to record reviews of four complex cases (as per option 2) for some cases and upload the rest of their reflection on practice evidence as; peer review meetings, M&Ms etc. (as per option 1).

23. Evidence of operation numbers in the procedures identified for the respective areas of certification.

Applicants are required to confirm their operation numbers in specific procedures relevant to their areas of practice and certification. Appendix II of this document sets out the system of credits/procedures for demonstrating appropriate experience.

Applicants can provide a logbook which meet the criteria set out in Appendix II. Applicants who apply for the non-surgical cosmetic procedures certificate in conjunction, with other surgical certificate(s), will also need to provide evidence that they have accumulated 30 credits/procedures across either botulinum toxins and/or dermal fillers, within the non-surgical cosmetic procedures area.

Plastic surgeons who apply for the 'Cosmetic Surgery' certificate, must provide evidence that they have accumulated 175 credits/procedures in total across the breadth of their cosmetic practice. Minimum numbers in each area of practice will not apply.

There are numerous ways in which applicants can provide evidence of their operation numbers. Applicants can select one of the three options listed below.

Option 1 – Consolidated E-logbook/consolidated logbook

Applicants can provide a consolidated E-logbook with respect to the ISCP module-aesthetics or another consolidated logbook demonstrating their operation numbers.

Option 2 – 'Operation Numbers Credits Counter'

Applicants can download the Excel spreadsheet: 'Operation Numbers Credits Counter' via the Cosmetic Surgery Certification website (www.certify-cosmeticsurgery.org.uk). Once downloaded, applicants can scroll through the various certificate tabs at the bottom of the spreadsheet and complete their operation numbers, the completed 'Operation Numbers Credits Counter' spreadsheet can then be uploaded as evidence.

Option 3 – PHIN Data, BAAPS Audit and/or activity report

Applicants can also provide one of the following to demonstrate their operations numbers:

- BAAPS audit.
- Activity report from your provider that gives evidence of your operation numbers, you can upload it below. For example, hospital lists that should include date of procedure, hospital site and the name of the procedure.
- PHIN data.

Please **redact data-sets from; your **BAAPS audits, PHIN data and/or activity report**. The *only* information that should be uploaded is your *activity* data. We cannot accept audits/reports that include other data-sets.*

Register of Certified Surgeons and Starring System

Once your application has been approved, we will ask you to confirm the area(s) of practice that you *predominately* practice in, which will be highlighted under the **starring system** on the register of certified surgeons. Applicants who apply for the 'Cosmetic Surgery' and/or the 'Non-Surgical Cosmetic Procedures' certificate(s) will need to accumulate a **minimum of 30 credits/procedures in each of the area(s) that you wish to be included on the starring system within the register of certified surgeons.**

24. Clinical quality and outcomes

For UK based applicants: CMA

Applicants are asked to provide evidence that they comply with the order of the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) for collection and publication of clinical outcomes data at provider and consultant level (the full order is available online at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/private-healthcare-market-investigation-order-2014). Such evidence can consist of uploading a letter from their provider confirming that the applicant has

complied with the CMA requirements and that the outcome results fulfil all relevant internal governance structures.

Applicants can demonstrate their outcomes information by providing the following:

- PHIN data – e.g., link to online page or a download in PDF form.
- Evidence and results of participation in a national audit where available (e.g., BAAPS audit).
- Details of local audit, with reflection on results.

*Please **redact** datasets from; your **BAAPS audits, PHIN data** and/or **activity report**. The *only* information that should be uploaded is your *activity* data. We cannot accept audits/reports that include other datasets.

Applicants who apply for multiple certificates, will be required to provide a range of outcomes in all areas of certification.

For Republic of Ireland based applicants: Operation Numbers Credit Counter and Certification letter of support from Healthcare organization

Applicants based in the Republic of Ireland must download and complete the 'Operation Numbers Credit Counter' from the website: www.certify-cosmeticsurgery.org.uk, as well as a Certification letter of support from the Healthcare organisation where you work, confirming your clinical ability and professional behaviours in regards, to your private, cosmetic practice.

25. References

Applicants are asked to provide two references per application, one of whom should be from your clinical director, or a referee nominated by your clinical director, and the other a senior colleague/consultant practicing either in the same area of cosmetic surgery or at your main provider. For applicants who have recently completed their training, one of the references can be provided by their assigned educational supervisor or their clinical supervisor. Applicants will be required to collate their two references and upload these to the online portal.

References have, to be aligned with the GMC guidance *Writing References* (GMC, 2012) and referees will be asked to include information on:

- The applicant's professional competence (the referee should be prepared to provide evidence to support this where appropriate and upon request by the certification evaluator).
- The applicant's conduct, including matters that might affect a patient's trust in the individual.
- Any other issues that may put patients at risk, including information on unresolved, outstanding, or past complaints about the applicant's competence, performance or conduct where those are relevant to the applicant's suitability for certification.

Applicants are required to upload two references before they submit their application (an application will remain open until both references have been submitted on to the portal).

Appendix II – Areas of certification, associated procedures, and credits

A clear set of standards for cosmetic surgery are needed that easily enable a prospective patient to be confident that their surgeon has the appropriate training, qualifications, and experience to perform their chosen procedure.

Through the Cosmetic Surgery Interspecialty Committee (CSIC), we have developed a system that allows surgeons to demonstrate high professional and clinical standards. Patients and hospitals will be able to search for a certified surgeon by clicking on the following link: www.rcseng.ac.uk/patient-care/cosmetic-surgery/choosing-a-surgeon-and-hospital/certified-cosmetic-surgeons/

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) will take account of our standards when inspecting and rating services. This new system of certification will make the cosmetic surgery industry safer for patients and enhance the reputation of the profession.

Surgeons will be able to obtain certification in one or more groups of closely related procedures, as long, as they are on the GMC specialist register or who are registered with the Irish Medical Council in a specialty that demonstrates training and experience in the chosen area of practice and can demonstrate that they meet the

certification requirements. To facilitate this, we have categorised cosmetic surgical procedures into groups of closely related operations. The procedures are grouped anatomically and the operations within the groups have overlapping requirements of skills and training.

One of the requirements of certification is to provide evidence of operation numbers in the area, of certification. This involves carrying out a requisite minimum number of procedures for that area, as set out below:

Credits

We have devised a system of credits to demonstrate appropriate experience. This is explained as follows:

- Credits may be obtained from the cases described in each section.
- 1 credit is obtained from a procedure performed or performed with assistance.
- 0.75 of a credit is obtained from assistance during a procedure.
- 0.5 of a credit is obtained from observation of a procedure.
- Crossover skills/reconstructive credit rate is 50 per cent of the credit rate for cosmetic procedures.
- The number of crossover skills/reconstructive credits that can count towards the total is specified for each certificate.

Observation

To qualify for the credit in procedures observed, the surgeon must:

- be present for whole case.
- discuss the case with the surgeon undertaking the procedure.
- confirm that the observed cases have been approved by the supervising surgeon as appropriate teaching cases.

A maximum of 30% of credits in any area of certification can be obtained from observation.

Cosmetic breast surgery

Area of certification; operative procedures that may be performed; specialty training required	Requirements and restrictions	Operative procedures that contribute towards credits
<p>Cosmetic breast surgery</p> <p>Certifying in this region would enable an individual to practise independently in the following procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Cosmetic surgery of the nipple areolar complex » Augmentation mammoplasty » Autologous fat transfer to breast for symmetrisation/augmentation » Breast symmetrisation » Correction of gynaecomastia » Mastopexy » Reduction mammoplasty <p>The surgeon should be on the GMC specialist register/Irish Medical Council for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » General surgery, with a declared specialist interest in breast surgery » Plastic surgery 	<p>A minimum of 40 credits, of which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » At least eight credits must come from each of the starred areas » Credits from 'crossover skills' may be gained from implant-based breast reconstruction » A maximum of eight credits may be obtained from 'crossover skills' » Applicants should have attended outpatient consultations with eight patients considering cosmetic breast surgery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Augmentation mammoplasty*: except by injectable fillers/fat » Reduction mammoplasty*: all techniques » Mastopexy*: all techniques » Breast symmetrisation: all techniques except by use of injectable filler or fat » Correction of gynaecomastia: all techniques except when performed by liposuction » Cosmetic surgery of the nipple areolar complex

Cosmetic nasal surgery

Area of certification; operative procedures that may be performed; specialty training required	Requirements and restrictions	Operative procedures that contribute towards credits
<p>Cosmetic nasal surgery</p> <p>Certifying in this region would enable an individual to practise independently in the following procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Rhinoplasty <p>The surgeon should be on the GMC specialist register/Irish Medical Council for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Plastic surgery » Otolaryngology » Oral and maxillofacial surgery 	<p>A minimum of 30 credits, of which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Credits from 'crossover skills' may be gained from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » nasal reconstruction using grafts » functional septal surgery » Credits are not available for closed contour alterations using injectable fillers or fat » A maximum of five credits may be obtained from 'crossover skills' » Applicants should have attended outpatient consultations with five patients considering rhinoplasty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Rhinoplasty: all aesthetic techniques except augmentation with injectable material

Cosmetic surgery of the periorbital region

Area of certification; operative procedures that may be performed; specialty training required	Requirements and restrictions	Operative procedures that contribute towards credits
<p>Cosmetic surgery of the periorbital region</p> <p>Certifying in this region would enable an individual to practise independently in the following procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Brow lift » Midface lift » Upper lid blepharoplasty » Lower lid blepharoplasty <p>The surgeon should be on the GMC specialist register/Irish Medical Council for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Plastic surgery » Otolaryngology » Oral and maxillofacial surgery » Ophthalmology, with a declared interest in oculoplastic surgery 	<p>A minimum of 30 credits, of which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Credits from 'crossover skills' may be gained from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » relevant upper and lower lid reconstructive procedures » correction of relevant upper and lower lid malposition (to include ptosis, entropion, and ectropion) » A maximum of five credits may be obtained from 'crossover skills' » Applicants should have attended outpatient consultations with five patients considering periorbital cosmetic surgery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Upper lid blepharoplasty: all techniques » Lower lid blepharoplasty: all techniques except pinch and teartrough modification with filler » Brow lift: all surgical brow lifts » Midface lift: but not midface 'lift' by use of filler, fat or other injectable

Cosmetic surgery of the ear

Area of certification; operative procedures that may be performed; specialty training required	Requirements and restrictions	Operative procedures that contribute towards credits
<p>Cosmetic surgery of the ear</p> <p>Certifying in this region would enable an individual to practise independently in the following procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Otoplasty <p>The surgeon should be on the GMC specialist register/Irish Medical Council for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Plastic surgery » Otolaryngology » Oral and maxillofacial surgery 	<p>A minimum of 15 credits, of which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Credits from 'crossover skills' may be gained from <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » major facial reconstruction » conchal cartilage harvest » A maximum of two credits may be obtained from 'crossover skills' » Applicants should have attended outpatient consultations with four patients considering otoplasty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Otoplasty: all techniques of prominent ear correction with the exception of the use of external splints

Cosmetic facial contouring surgery

Area of certification; operative procedures that may be performed; specialty training required	Requirements and restrictions	Operative procedures that contribute towards credits
<p>Cosmetic facial contouring surgery</p> <p>Certifying in this region would enable an individual to practise independently in the following procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Alloplastic augmentation of the facial skeleton » Bone grafting of the facial skeleton » Free fat grafting to the face » Genioplasty: sliding, reduction, lengthening and symmetrising <p>The surgeon should be on the GMC specialist register/Irish Medical Council for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Plastic surgery » Otolaryngology » Oral and maxillofacial surgery 	<p>A minimum of 20 credits, of which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Credits from 'crossover skills' may be gained from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Reconstructive facial recontouring or remodelling » Credits are not available for contour alterations using injectable fillers » A maximum of four credits may be obtained from 'crossover skills' » A maximum of four credits may be obtained from free fat transfer » Applicants should have attended outpatient consultations with four patients considering cosmetic facial contouring surgery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Alloplastic augmentation of the facial skeleton: all techniques with the exception of injectable fillers » Bone grafting of the facial skeleton: all techniques if undertaken primarily for cosmetic purposes » Free fat grafting to the face » Genioplasty: sliding, reduction, lengthening and symmetrising as described

Cosmetic surgery of the face

Area of certification; operative procedures that may be performed; specialty training required	Requirements and restrictions	Operative procedures that contribute towards credits
<p>Cosmetic surgery of the face</p> <p>Certifying in this region would enable an individual to practise independently in the following procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Cosmetic facial contouring » Brow lift » Rhytidectomy » Platysmaplasty <p>The surgeon should be on the GMC specialist register/Irish Medical Council for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Plastic surgery » Otolaryngology » Oral and maxillofacial surgery 	<p>A minimum of 30 credits, of which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » A minimum of ten credits must be undertaken in * procedures » A maximum of four credits may be obtained from combined ++ procedures » Credits from 'crossover skills' may be gained from <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » major facial reconstruction » facial reanimation » extensive facial symmetrisation » A maximum of five credits may be obtained from 'crossover skills' » Applicants should have attended outpatient consultations with five patients considering cosmetic facial surgery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Rhytidectomy*: all except use of threads and 'non-surgical' face lifts, injectables, vampire » Brow lift: all surgical brow lifts » Platysmaplasty: except with threads or sutures » Alloplastic facial augmentation ++: with the exception of injectable fillers » Autologous fat transfer ++

Cosmetic surgery of the face/nose/periorbital region/ears

Area of certification; operative procedures that may be performed; specialty training required	Requirements and restrictions	Operative procedures that contribute towards credits
<p>Cosmetic surgery of the face/nose/periorbital region/ears</p> <p>Certifying in this region would enable an individual to practise independently in the following procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Alloplastic augmentation of the facial skeleton » Alloplastic facial augmentation » Autologous fat transfer » Blepharoplasty » Bone grafting of the facial skeleton » Brow lift » Rhytidectomy » Facial contouring surgery » Free fat grafting to the face » Genioplasty » Midface lift » Otoplasty » Platysmaplasty » Reconstructive facial recontouring or remodelling » Rhinoplasty <p>The surgeon should be on the GMC specialist register/Irish Medical Council for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Plastic surgery » Otolaryngology » Oral and maxillofacial surgery 	<p>A minimum of 90 credits, of which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » At least 25 credits must come from each of the starred procedures » Credits from 'crossover skills' may be gained from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » nasal reconstruction using grafts/functional septal surgery » eyelid reconstruction/ptosis correction/ correction of ectropion » ear reconstruction/conchal cartilage harvest » major facial reconstruction/facial reanimation/extensive facial symmetrisation » A maximum of 20 credits may be obtained from 'crossover skills', maximum of 5 in any one area of practice » Applicants should have attended outpatient consultations with 15 patients considering cosmetic facial, nasal, ear, eye surgery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Rhytidectomy*: all except use of threads and 'non-surgical' face lifts, injectables, vampire » Platysmaplasty: except with threads or sutures » Brow lift: all surgical brow lifts » Rhinoplasty *: all aesthetic techniques except augmentation with injectable material » Blepharoplasty*: Upper lid: all techniques. Lower lid: all techniques except pinch and teartrough modification with filler » Otoplasty: all techniques of prominent ear correction with the exception of the use of external splints » Facial contouring surgery » Reconstructive facial recontouring or remodelling » Midface lift: but not midface lift by use of filler, fat or other injectable » Alloplastic augmentation of the facial skeleton: all techniques with the exception of injectable fillers » Alloplastic facial augmentation: with the exception of injectable fillers » Bone grafting of the facial skeleton: all techniques if undertaken primarily for cosmetic purposes » Free fat grafting to the face: all techniques » Genioplasty: sliding, reduction, lengthening and symmetrising as described » Autologous fat transfer: all techniques

Cosmetic body contouring surgery

Area of certification; operative procedures that may be performed; specialty training required	Requirements and restrictions	Operative procedures that contribute towards credits
<p>Cosmetic body contouring surgery</p> <p>Certifying in this region would enable an individual to practise independently in the following procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Abdominoplasty » Autologous fat transfer » Body lift » Brachioplasty » Gluteal augmentation » Calf augmentation » Liposuction » Thigh lift <p>The surgeon should be on the GMC specialist register/Irish Medical Council for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Plastic surgery 	<p>A minimum of 30 credits, of which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » At least ten credits must be derived from each of the * areas » Credits from 'crossover skills' may be gained from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » therapeutic abdominoplasty » abdominal wall reconstruction » A maximum of five credits may be obtained from 'crossover skills' » Applicants should have attended outpatient consultations with five patients considering cosmetic body contouring surgery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Abdominoplasty*: all techniques » Liposuction*: all surgical techniques may contribute, non-surgical lipomodification using external techniques such as cryolipo are not included. Cases undertaken using external lipomodelling techniques will not be considered. Fat harvest for autologous transfer does not count toward liposuction credits » Thigh lift: all techniques » Brachioplasty: all techniques » Cosmetic augmentation of calf: all techniques except with use of injectable » Cosmetic augmentation of buttock: all techniques except with use of injectable » Fat augmentation if performed for cosmetic augmentation of the breast or the buttock: to a maximum of four credits

Massive weight loss surgery (MWL) - Supplementary certificate in body contouring following massive weight loss

Area of certification; operative procedures that may be performed; specialty training required	Requirements and restrictions	Operative procedures that contribute towards credits
<p>Massive weight loss surgery (MWL) – Supplementary certificate in body contouring following massive weight loss</p> <p>Certifying in this region would enable an individual to practise independently in the following procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Post-bariatric surgery/MWL abdominoplasty » Post-bariatric surgery/MWL brachioplasty » Post-bariatric surgery/MWL autologous fat transfer » Post-bariatric surgery/MWL body lift » Post-bariatric surgery/MWL liposuction » Post-bariatric surgery/MWL thigh lift <p>The surgeon should be on the GMC specialist register/Irish Medical Council for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Plastic surgery 	<p>A minimum of 15 credits, of which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Credits from 'crossover skills' may be gained from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Reconstructive abdominal surgery in post-bariatric/massive weight loss patient » A maximum of four credits may be obtained from 'crossover skills' » Applicants should have attended outpatient consultations with four patients considering body contouring surgery following massive weight loss <p>To obtain this certificate, surgeons must have first gained a certificate in cosmetic body contouring surgery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Post-bariatric surgery/MWL abdominoplasty: all techniques » Post-bariatric surgery/MWL thigh lift: all techniques » Post-bariatric surgery/MWL brachioplasty: all techniques » Post-bariatric surgery/MWL body lift: all techniques

Cosmetic Surgery

Area of certification; operative procedures that may be performed; specialty training required	Requirements and restrictions	Operative procedures that contribute towards credits
<p>Cosmetic Surgery</p> <p>Certifying in this region would enable an individual to practise independently in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Cosmetic Surgery: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Cosmetic Breast Surgery » Cosmetic Nasal Surgery » Cosmetic Surgery of the periorbital region » Cosmetic surgery of the ear » Cosmetic facial contouring surgery » Cosmetic surgery of the face » Cosmetic surgery of the face/nose/periorbital region/ears » Cosmetic body contouring surgery » Supplementary certificate in body contouring following massive weight loss <p>The surgeon should be on the GMC specialist register/Irish Medical Council for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Plastic surgery 	<p>A minimum of 175 credits, of which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Credits must total 175, but these can be less than the absolute total across each area. <p>» Register of Certified Surgeons Applicants who apply for the 'Cosmetic Surgery' and/or the 'Non-Surgical Cosmetic Procedures' certificate(s) will need to accumulate a <u>minimum of 30 credits/procedures in each of the area(s) that you wish to be included on the starrng system within the register of certified surgeons.</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Augmentation mammoplasty*: except by injectable fillers/ fat » Reduction mammoplasty*: all techniques » Mastopexy*: all techniques » Breast symmetrisation: all techniques except by use of injectable filler or fat » Correction of gynaecomastia: all techniques except when performed by liposuction » Cosmetic surgery of the nipple areolar complex » Rhytidectomy*: all except use of threads and 'non- surgical' face lifts, injectables, vampire » Platysmaplasty: except with threads or sutures » Brow lift: all surgical brow lifts » Rhinoplasty *: all aesthetic techniques except augmentation with injectable material » Blepharoplasty*: Upper lid: all techniques. Lower lid: all techniques except pinch and teartrough modification with filler » Otoplasty: all techniques of prominent ear correction with the exception of the use of external splints » Facial contouring surgery » Reconstructive facial recontouring or remodelling » Midface lift: but not midface lift by use of filler, fat or other injectable » Alloplastic augmentation of the facial skeleton: all techniques with the exception of injectable fillers » Alloplastic facial augmentation: with the exception of injectable fillers » Bone grafting of the facial skeleton: all techniques if undertaken primarily for cosmetic purposes » Free fat grafting to the face: all techniques » Genioplasty: sliding, reduction, lengthening and symmetrising as described » Autologous fat transfer: all techniques » Abdominoplasty*: all techniques » Liposuction*: all surgical techniques may contribute, non-surgical lipomodification using external techniques such as cryolipo are not included. Cases undertaken using external lipomodelling techniques will not be considered. Fat harvest for autologous transfer does not count toward liposuction credits » Thigh lift: all techniques » Brachioplasty: all techniques » Cosmetic augmentation of calf: all techniques except with use of injectable » Cosmetic augmentation of buttock: all techniques except with use of injectable » Fat augmentation if performed for cosmetic augmentation of the breast or the buttock: to a maximum of four credits. » Post-bariatric surgery/MWL abdominoplasty: all techniques » Post-bariatric surgery/MWL thigh lift: all techniques » Post-bariatric surgery/MWL brachioplasty: all techniques » Post-bariatric surgery/MWL body lift: all techniques.

Non-Surgical Cosmetic Procedures

Area of certification; operative procedures that may be performed; specialty training required	Requirements and restrictions	Operative procedures that contribute towards credits
<p>Non-Surgical Cosmetic Procedures</p> <p>Certifying in this region would enable an individual to practise independently in the following procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Botulinum toxins for cosmetic use. » Dermal fillers (temporary). » Lasers, IPL, LED. » Chemical peels and skin rejuvenation. <p>The surgeon should be on the GMC specialist register/Irish Medical Council for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Plastic surgery » Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery » Otolaryngology » Ophthalmology (with a declared interest in oculoplastic surgery). 	<p>A minimum of 30 credits, of which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » across either the botulinum toxins and/or dermal fillers (temporary). <p>» Register of Certified Surgeons Applicants who apply for the 'Cosmetic Surgery' and/or the 'Non-Surgical Cosmetic Procedures' certificate(s) will need to accumulate a minimum of 30 <u>credits/procedures in each of the area(s) that you wish to be included on the starrng system within the register of certified surgeons.</u></p>	