

Royal College of Surgeons

Cosmetic Surgery Certification: Application Guidelines



A. Introduction

1. The Royal College of Surgeons of England, led by a Cosmetic Surgery Interspecialty Committee, has developed a certification process that aims to provide accreditation of competences (including professional behaviours, clinical skills, knowledge and experience) in defined areas of cosmetic surgery.

The review into the regulation of cosmetic interventions in 2013, led by the Department of Health, 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.

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

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

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B. Scope of certification

3. Cosmetic surgery is where a person chooses to undergo an operation, or invasive medical procedure, to alter their 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 on the NHS.

The scope of certification extends to invasive surgical cosmetic procedures and does not include non-surgical procedures such as Botox®, dermal fillers and chemical peels. Invasive cosmetic procedures have been defined in the *RCS 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 in a surgical specialty that provides training and experience related to the area of cosmetic surgery in which they practise. There are nine available areas of certification, based on a categorisation of cosmetic surgical 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 registration/specialty training are:

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Area of certification*	GMC Specialist Registration
Cosmetic breast surgery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plastic surgery • General surgery (with a declared interest in breast surgery)
Cosmetic nasal surgery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plastic surgery • Otolaryngology • Oral and maxillofacial surgery
Cosmetic surgery of the periorbital region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plastic surgery • Ophthalmology (with a declared interest in oculoplastic surgery) • Oral and maxillofacial surgery • Otolaryngology
Cosmetic surgery of the ear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plastic surgery • Otolaryngology • Oral and maxillofacial surgery
Cosmetic facial contouring surgery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Otolaryngology • Oral and maxillofacial surgery • Plastic surgery
Cosmetic surgery of the face	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plastic surgery • Oral and maxillofacial surgery • Otolaryngology
Cosmetic surgery of the face/nose/periorbital region/ears	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plastic surgery • Oral and maxillofacial surgery • Otolaryngology

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

5. Surgeons are able to obtain certification in more than one area within the scope of their specialty training.
6. Surgeons who practise predominantly overseas are also eligible to apply for certification provided they are on the GMC specialist register in the corresponding specialty. 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 <http://www.gmc-uk.org/doctors/24630.asp>

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D. Criteria

7. In addition to entry on the GMC 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

8. A summary of the criteria for certification is as follows:
 - Knowledge and acceptance of the professional responsibilities set out in the GMC's *Guidance for All Doctors Who Offer Cosmetic Interventions* (GMC, 2016) and RCS' *Professional Standards for Cosmetic Surgery* (RCS, 2016).
 - Attendance at an RCS-accredited masterclass on professional behaviours for cosmetic surgery.
 - Professional indemnity insurance that covers cosmetic practice in the UK.
 - Successful revalidation that has taken cosmetic practice into account.
 - CPD activities relevant to cosmetic practice.
 - Four complex case reviews.
 - Multi-source feedback exercise with reflection on results.
 - Exposure to a minimum number of procedures relevant to the area of certification.
 - Clinical outcomes in line with the requirements of the Competition and Markets Authority, with reflection on results.
 - Two references.
 - 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

9. Candidates can apply for certification by registering on the online Cosmetic Surgery Certification Portal at the following weblink: <https://certify.rcs.eng.ac.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.

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10. As part of the online application process you will be asked to pay an application fee of £1,500. 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 masterclass on professional behaviours in cosmetic surgery, which will need to be paid for separately. Prices for the masterclass will be set by the education provider.
 11. Your application will be assessed by a surgeon who has received dedicated training for assessing applications. There is a team of evaluators with representation from each of the recognised surgical specialties. An evaluator will be assigned to each application and will review elements of the submitted evidence and make a decision about awarding certification. Where this is required, specialty-specific elements of the evidence will be reviewed by an evaluator who practises specifically in the certification area. An evaluator may ask for further evidence from an applicant if the information is unclear or missing.
 12. Once a complete application has been submitted, a decision will normally be made within 28 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. Additional hard copies of a certificate can be requested for a small administrative fee.

F. Maintaining certification

13. Certification, along with the required portfolio of evidence, builds on the revalidation process and lasts for approximately five years in alignment with the revalidation cycle. To maintain certification, applicants will have to apply for renewal every five years at the point of revalidation. The date of the first renewal will be set at the point of successful certification.
14. Applicants will not have to repeat the original certification process or re-submit the same portfolio of evidence to maintain 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.
15. Renewal of certification will take place through the online Portal, for which there will be a fee.

Appendix I – Evidence requirements

16. 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.

17. Registration on the GMC specialist register in a surgical specialty that corresponds to the certification area
(see section C of this document)

Applicants are asked to provide their GMC number and confirm the surgical specialty in which they are listed on the GMC register. General surgeons should also confirm that they have a special interest/specialisation in breast surgery, and ophthalmologists in oculoplastic surgery.

18. Scope of work

Applicants are asked to provide information on the full scope of their work, including (but not limited to) their cosmetic practice. This should encompass all work undertaken in the NHS or in private or independent practice, and should include clinical commitments as well as managerial, educational, research and academic roles.

This information can be recorded directly on the Portal. Applicants are also asked to upload the job plan that was valid during their most recent appraisal.

19. 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.

We are also asking applicants to let us know if at the time of application they are under investigation by the GMC. 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.

20. Declaration of knowledge and acceptance of professional responsibilities set by the GMC and the Royal College of Surgeons

All surgeons who practise cosmetic surgery are expected to have full knowledge and understanding of the GMC's *Guidance For Doctors Who Offer Cosmetic Interventions* (GMC, 2016) and the RCS' *Professional Standards for Cosmetic Surgery* (RCS, 2016). Applicants will be 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.

21. Masterclass on professional behaviours for cosmetic surgery

Applicants are required to attend and meet the requirements of a masterclass on professional behaviours as this is one of the most significant areas that impact on patient satisfaction, quality and safety in cosmetic surgery. The masterclass must be accredited by the Royal College of Surgeons for cosmetic surgery.

A list of accredited masterclasses will be provided through the Portal, where you will be guided to upload your certificate of successful completion of the masterclass.

22. Indemnity

Applicants are required to have professional indemnity insurance that specifically covers their cosmetic practice in the UK. 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 must provide additional evidence to demonstrate that their insurance provider is aware of their practice in the UK 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.

23. 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. Where an applicant's practice encompasses

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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.

24. Continuing professional development

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 is available through the College website on:

<https://www.rcseng.ac.uk/surgeons/surgical-standards/docs/cpd-summary-guide-for-surgery-2013>

Applicants can record all relevant activities directly on the Portal and/or upload a CPD diary, eg one that is provided through their hospital or through the Surgeons Portfolio (<https://www.surgeonsportfolio.org/>). In addition, applicants will be asked to upload any supporting information of their CPD activities such as certificates of attendance, letters from event organisers, and minutes of meetings.

25. Case reviews

Applicants are required to use the dedicated space provided on the Portal to record reviews of four complex cases in which they participated and the learning they achieved.

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. For certification, applicants should provide evidence of participation in consultation/post-consultation debrief sessions from any of the following groups:

- Planning of technically challenging cases, eg revision/salvage aesthetic surgery.
- Patient/surgeon challenges, eg failure to meet patient's expectations, or breakdown in communication.
- Managing complications following cosmetic surgery.

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- 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.

For the breast surgery region, up to two of these case discussions may take place within applicants’ reconstructive practice. In all other areas, the complex cases should be wholly from the surgeon’s cosmetic practice. *(Please see Appendix II for the time period within which cases have to be performed.)*

26. Multi-source feedback

Applicants are asked to upload the results of one multi-source feedback (MSF) exercise that took place during their last revalidation cycle and included the collection of colleagues’ and patients’ opinions on the applicant’s clinical performance and professional behaviour.

The selection of colleagues and patients should encompass applicants’ whole practice, including their cosmetic practice. Applicants who, at the time of their application for certification, had already completed an MSF exercise as part of the first revalidation cycle in the NHS between 2013–2017 and that exercise did not include cosmetic patients, can use their existing MSF results along with relevant reflection points. Any subsequent MSF exercises should include colleague and patient feedback from their cosmetic practice.

For surgeons whose multi-source feedback exercise took place during their training (and therefore did not include patient feedback), the results included as part of their ARCP evidence along with accompanying reflection will be sufficient for the purposes of certification.

Applicants should use the dedicated space provided on the Portal to record their reflection on the results of this exercise and of their performance, along with key learning and action points.

27. Evidence of operative exposure in the procedures identified for the respective areas of certification.

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

Applicants can record their operative experience in the relevant section of the Portal, which will automatically calculate the corresponding number of credits. Applicants who have separate activity reports generated by their provider, or through a logbook which meet the criteria set out in Appendix II, can upload copies of these reports and do not have to use the Portal calculator.

Applicants should also provide a list of all hospitals and time periods where the procedures have taken place to allow assessors to sample and evaluate this information. These hospitals should meet fundamental standards of quality and safety in line with those set by the Care Quality Commission (<https://www.cqc.org.uk/>), Healthcare Inspectorate Wales (<http://www.hiw.org.uk/>) or equivalent.

Credits should normally be collected within a period of six years prior to the point of applying for certification, with periods of up to eight years to be considered on a case-by-case basis. For surgeons who are in less than full-time training, this period will be extended on a pro rata basis.

28. Clinical quality and outcomes

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: https://assets.digital.cabinet-office.gov.uk/media/542c1543e5274a1314000c56/Non-Divestment_Order_amended.pdf). 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 should also use the dedicated space on the Portal to reflect on their outcome results and should confirm that they will bring their outcomes for discussion at appraisal.

NB The first publication of the CMA-mandated data will take place in April 2017, whereas providers will only begin collecting such data from autumn 2015. Once the CMA requirements have been in operation for at least a year (ie approximately from April 2018 onwards) applicants will also be required to carry out an audit of their outcomes in line with College guidance (available on www.rcseng.ac.uk/cosmeticsurgerystandards) and subject the results to peer discussion and review.

29. References

Applicants are asked to provide the details of two referees, one of whom should be your clinical director and the other a senior colleague/consultant practising 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. Referees will be asked to submit their reference on 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 advised to check that they have the correct email address for their referee and that their referee is willing and able to provide a reference for them before they submit their application form and payment. An application will remain open until both referees have submitted their references on 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 on the RCS website. 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 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 operative exposure in the area of certification. This involves carrying out a requisite minimum number of procedures for that area, as set out below. You can read further information about certification on our website (www.rcseng.ac.uk/cosmetic).

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

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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.

Time period for obtaining the minimum number of procedures

Normally, procedures performed/observed within the preceding six years from the point of applying for certification can be used. Periods of up to eight years will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Periods for the collection of credits for less than full-time pre-CCT trainees will be extended on a pro rata basis.

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 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

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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 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

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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 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

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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 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 reconstructionconchal 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

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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 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 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>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

For cosmetic surgery standards enquiries contact cosmeticsurgerystandards@rcseng.ac.uk
 For certification portal enquiries contact certify@rcseng.ac.uk
www.rcseng.ac.uk/cosmeticsurgerystandards

The surgeon should be on the GMC specialist register for:

- Plastic surgery
- Otolaryngology
- Oral and maxillofacial surgery

- Free fat grafting to the face: all techniques
- Genioplasty: sliding, reduction, lengthening and symmetrising as described
- Autologous fat transfer: all techniques

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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 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 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