



# SINGAPORE MEDICAL COUNCIL

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SMC 21.1

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All registered medical practitioners

## **GUIDELINES ON AESTHETIC PRACTICES FOR DOCTORS (2016 EDITION)**

1. We wish to inform all registered doctors in Singapore that the 2016 edition of the Guidelines on Aesthetic Practices for Doctors ("2016 Guidelines") will come into effect on **1 August 2016**.

### **Background**

2. The Academy of Medicine, Singapore (AMS), College of Family Physicians, Singapore (CFPS) and the Singapore Medical Council (SMC) jointly implemented a framework for aesthetic practice; and the Guidelines on Aesthetic Practices for Doctors came into effect on 1 November 2008 ("2008 Guidelines"). An Aesthetic Practice Oversight Committee (APOC) was appointed by the SMC on 1 July 2008 to oversee the regulation of aesthetic practices.

3. A Working Committee (comprising members from the APOC and representatives from the relevant colleges and chapters of the professional bodies, at **Annex**) was appointed by SMC in January 2014 to review the 2008 Guidelines, advise on the appropriate standards for aesthetic practices and make recommendations on the appropriate additions and modifications.

### **KEY CHANGES MADE**

#### Introduction of Table 1 and Table 2

4. In the 2016 Guidelines, the List A aesthetic procedures have been re-classified into **Table 1** and **Table 2**.

5. **Table 1** lists the approved aesthetic treatments and procedures which non-specialists and other specialists who are not indicated under **Table 2** can perform if they have met the requisite number of procedures performed from 1 October 2006 to 30 September 2008 ("the Relevant Period"). If a doctor has not performed the requisite number of procedures in the Relevant Period, he/she will have to obtain a Certificate of Competence (COC).

6. **Table 2** lists the approved aesthetic treatments and procedures which certain specialists such as Dermatologists, Plastic Surgeons, Ophthalmologists (who are trained in Oculoplasty), Otorhinolaryngologists (ENT surgeons with facial plastic training) and General Surgeons (who are trained in vascular surgery and in procedures such as phlebectomy and sclerotherapy) can perform.

Discontinuation of List B aesthetic treatments and procedures

7. Aesthetic treatments and procedures which were previously known as List B procedures (regarded as having low or very low level of evidence) are no longer allowed unless they are performed in the context of a formal and approved clinical trial.

Non-Listed aesthetic treatments and procedures

8. Doctors who wish to perform treatments and procedures that fall within the definition of “aesthetic practice” in the Guidelines but which are not listed in **Table 1** or **Table 2** should make an application to the APOC for the classification of the said treatment/procedure under **Table 1** or **Table 2** using the prescribed Non-Listed Aesthetic Procedures application form which is available on the SMC’s website.

**SAFEGUARDING PATIENTS’ INTEREST AND UPHOLDING PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL STANDARDS**

9. It is recommended that doctors who have been performing aesthetic procedures have sufficient and appropriate medical malpractice insurance to safeguard patients’ interests. All registered doctors are also advised to keep abreast of medical knowledge relevant to such practice and ensure that their clinical and technical skills are maintained as stated in the SMC Ethical Code and Ethical Guidelines.

10. The 2016 Guidelines can be found and downloaded from SMC website ([www.smc.gov.sg](http://www.smc.gov.sg)). For any clarifications, please email [enquiries@smc.gov.sg](mailto:enquiries@smc.gov.sg).



PROF HO LAI YUN  
CHAIRMAN  
WORKING COMMITTEE FOR THE REVIEW OF THE  
GUIDELINES ON AESTHETIC PRACTICES FOR DOCTORS &  
AESTHETIC PRACTICE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE



PROF TAN SER KIAT  
PRESIDENT  
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The Working Committee for the review of the Guidelines on Aesthetic Practice for Doctors comprised the following members:

| <b>Working Committee</b>   | <b>Position</b>   | <b>Nominated by</b> |
|----------------------------|---|---------------------|
| Prof Ho Lai Yun            | Chairman, APOC  | -                   |
| A/Prof Foo Chee Liam       | Representative, APOC  | -                   |
| Prof Goh Chee Leok         | Representative, APOC  | -                   |
| A/Prof Goh Lee Gan         | Representative, APOC  | -                   |
| Prof Kesavan Esuvaranathan | Representative, College of Surgeons, Singapore  | AMS                 |
| A/Prof Peter Lu Kuo Sun    | Representative, Chapter of Otorhinolaryngologists, College of Surgeons, Singapore                         | AMS                 |
| A/Prof Tan Hak Koon        | Representative, College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, Singapore                                    | AMS                 |
| A/Prof Tay Yong Kwang      | Representative, Chapter of Dermatologists, College of Physicians, Singapore                               | AMS                 |
| Dr Marcus Wong             | Representative, Chapter of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons, College of Surgeons, Singapore | AMS                 |
| Dr Subramaniam Surajkumar  | Representative, College of Family Physicians Singapore  | CFPS                |