



Updated JCCP Statement on the UK Government's stages of lifting 'Lock Down' restrictions.

Last November the JCCP released a document 'Preparing Your Place of Work: Covid-19 & Return to Practice'. This guidance document is available to view on the JCCP website and continues to remain valid at this time. The guidance document was produced to assist aesthetic practitioners to deliver effective treatments as safely as possible within the context of a carefully prepared practice environment and in such a manner that would seriously minimize risks of contracting Covid-19 for patients, practitioners and their employees. The guidance has also been informed by available best practice advice and current government restrictions on non-medical related elective service delivery available at that time (noting also that this is a constantly changing and dynamic situation within the UK). This guidance was also produced following consultation with the Cosmetic Practice Standards Authority.

During the latest Government 'lock down' period, as ever, safety of the patient, public and the practitioner is central to all that we do. The JCCP believes that there should be no compromise in safety for financial gain. This document does not seek to circumvent national Government advice and seeks to advise practitioners that a full return to 'unrestricted' business can only officially and legitimately resume when the Government Administrations in the four UK nations advises that is legally safe to do so. The JCCP endorses this position and does *not* support the unrestricted resumption of practice until the Government Departments in each of the UK nations permits a lawful and unrestricted return to practice. Government advice on resumption of practice should therefore form *part* of the decision to reopen, along with your ability to implement a risk-assessed and informed policy, and other material factors which may impinge on your capacity to perform safely and responsibly.

For the avoidance of doubt, it should be noted that under no circumstances is this advice designed to supersede advice provided by the four Government administrations in the UK or instructions provided by the professional statutory regulating bodies. In so doing the JCCP does not set to challenge the autonomy of professional clinical decision making of registered healthcare professionals with regard to their requirement to exercise their duty of care, informed by their clinical judgement and a balanced approach to risk assessment. Such matters and responsibilities are referred to and set down in the JCCP/CPSA 'Code of Conduct', (2020).

The guidance should be used by competent cosmetic practitioners to ensure that they comply with patient safety and public protection standards required by both UK statutory professional and voluntary registers.

The following points are important in placing an understanding of this guidance document in context.

- The Coronavirus pandemic is an evolving and dynamic crisis. Therefore, this guidance will be updated accordingly, but should not supersede contemporaneous government or healthcare regulatory body advice.
- In light of the success of the Covid-19 vaccination programme, current patient vaccination status will be an important factor in mitigating risk. However, in the absence of definitive data, practitioners must continue to exercise appropriate caution. This extends to an understanding of potential risks attached to cosmetic procedures in patients who have been or intend to be vaccinated. We refer you to Appendix 2 of the guidance document referred to in this statement.
- There is no policy or process identified which can consistently eliminate the risk of contracting or transmitting this virus.
- Practitioners must be vigilant in ensuring that their practice reflects the most up-to-date guidance, to include risks associated with both the coronavirus and the vaccination, using this information to make balanced and evidence based clinical judgments.



- This guidance must be considered in addition to statutory obligations for Health and Safety in the workplace and your professional regulator.

This guidance relies upon the expertise provided by stakeholders in the non-surgical cosmetic industry, bringing together the work of Government and international reputable authorities. We recognise the uncertainty that currently exists at this challenging time and reach out to you to encourage you to work as safely and responsibly as possible. We wish you to aim to return to work safely and to support you in minimising the risk of harm to both yourselves and your patients.

The JCCP advises that non-surgical aesthetic procedures that are assessed as purely cosmetic, non-urgent and/or elective must not be undertaken until the appropriate stage of lifting lockdown restrictions which permit non-essential services to resume. For England it is anticipated that this will be 12th April, but it should be understood that this is subject to change.

The JCCP reaffirms that its current guidance on practising during the pandemic remains appropriate. However, practitioners should note the addition in the appendix of new guidance for the use of dermal fillers concurrently with the Covid-19 vaccine. A most recent copy of the JCCP guidance document can be found [here](#).

In the absence of definitive government and professional advice, these guidelines continue to be designed to provide you with a range of basic principles to achieve a standard of safety within the limits of current understanding. It is important to understand that this document is a guidance document, rather than presenting a 'standard' against which to benchmark and 'reset' your practice. As such we encourage practitioners and staff to continue to explore and to adopt government advice on how to practise lawfully, safely and responsibly. As such the guidelines presented in this document should not be regarded in isolation or as alternatives from other definitive advice offered by employers or by Government agencies to inform local decision making.

*The JCCP advises all practitioners to await formal confirmation from UK National Government Policy Advisors before opening up their businesses to perform **either** non-urgent medical/medically-related cosmetic procedures or non-medical/medically-related treatments. The JCCP will continue to work with central government and the devolved administrations to seek clarification in this area and will disseminate further advice following receipt of further update.*

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