

Press Release 44 - Joint Council for Cosmetic Practitioners (JCCP) – Announces Trustee Board Approval for GMC Specialist Registry Qualification Equivalence against the CPSA and JCCP Competency Framework/Standards for Plastic Surgery and Dermatology Registrants

The Joint Council for Cosmetic Practitioners (JCCP), was formally launched in February 2018 as a 'self-regulating' body for the non-surgical aesthetics and hair restoration sector in the United Kingdom and has charitable status within the UK. The charitable status reflects the overarching not-for-profit mission of the JCCP which is to improve patient safety and public protection. The concept of the JCCP was inspired in 2016 by Health Education England on behalf of NHS England and the Department of Health. The JCCP's register of approved practitioners, while currently voluntary, is approved by the Professional Standards Authority and aims to uphold standards in cosmetic practice in the interest of public protection and patient safety.

The Joint Council for Cosmetic Practitioners (JCCP) is at the forefront of the call for better regulation within the aesthetic sector and has built on the previous HEE approved framework by setting education and training standards and competency frameworks for the industry in collaboration with the Cosmetic Practice Standards Authority (CPSA). The standards and competencies set down by the JCCP and the CPSA may be accessed via the JCCP website and are presented as the JCCP Competence Framework (2018). These standards are designed for use by Ofqual and SQA recognised Awarding Bodies and by UK Universities to assist in the development of qualifications and education/training programmes in order to demonstrate alignment with the Council's published standards.

The Cosmetic Practice Standards Authority (CPSA) sets practice standards for aesthetic procedures and provides expert guidance on key areas of cosmetic treatments. These Standards have been produced through stakeholder engagement, including: dermatologists, plastic, reconstructive and aesthetic surgeons, aesthetic doctors, dentists, nurses, aesthetic practitioners, the beauty sector, industry experts and professional bodies. Professional bodies represented on the CPSA include (but are not limited to) the British Association of Dermatologists (BAD), the British Association of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons (BAPRAS) and the British Association of Aesthetic Surgeons (BAAPS). CPSA guidance is based on the General Medical Council's (GMC) guidance for doctors providing cosmetic interventions, and sets out a framework for practice to address these concerns.

The JCCP has now completed an exercise with CPSA colleagues and the British Association of Dermatologists to review the alignment between the GMC Plastic Surgery and Dermatology Specialist Register membership requirements with regard to both knowledge and practice competencies against the CPSA Standards (2018) and against the JCCP (2018) Competency Framework. As a result of this exercise the JCCP Board of Trustees is delighted to announce that full equivalence and alignment has been approved between the Specialist Register for Plastic Surgery and for the Specialist Register for Dermatology and the JCCP Competency Framework with regard to Level 7 aesthetic practice. The GMC Specialist Register 'is a list of doctors who are eligible to take up appointment in any fixed term, honorary or substantive consultant post in the NHS, excluding Foundation Trusts'.

Effectively this means that any current member of the GMC Plastic Surgery or Dermatology Specialist Registers will now be able to join the JCCP Practitioner Register as a full member (Part A – Category 1) without any requirement for further educational attainment or attendance at a fast track assessment centre. Practitioners who hold such registration status should contact the JCCP register team to confirm their live membership of one of these two Specialist Registers as soon as possible to either revise their registration current category (for existing JCCP members) or to request membership of the JCCP on Part A – Category 1 of the Practitioner Register.

Professor David Sines CBE, Chair of the Joint Council for Cosmetic Practitioners, said: "The JCCP Trustee Board is delighted to announce this decision today. Following a thorough review of the GMC Specialist Register curricula for the Plastic Surgery and Dermatology post graduate registers equivalence with regard to theoretical knowledge and practice competence has been affirmed to assure us that members of either of these two Specialist Registers demonstrate equivalence and full compliance with the JCCP and CPSA's Level 7 standards for the injection of toxins and for the insertion of dermal fillers in accordance with our published standards and competence frameworks. This decision is made in accordance with the processes originally envisioned by Health Education England in 2015 and serves to enhance patient safety and public protection in the UK.

The JCCP fully endorses the recent recommendation made by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Beauty, Aesthetics and Wellbeing (July, 2021) that there should be a national benchmarked education and training standard in place for aesthetic procedures/practitioners within the UK. The recognition of equivalence of these two GMC Specialist Register education and training standards to the JCCP/CPSA Competency Standards Framework (2018) demonstrates further alignment in this direction and provides evidence of our united quest to future proof and quality assure one national education and training standards for the aesthetics industry in the United Kingdom. This is even more so given the fact that the JCCP/CPSA Competency Standards are based on the HEE framework now managed by the JCCP after transfer from HEE in June 2018".

It should be noted that the JCCP Competency Framework for Aesthetic Practice (2018) and the CPSA Standards (2018) are the subject of copyright and attributable ownership to the JCCP and CPSA respectively.

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JCCP Registered Charity Number 1177540

4th August 2021

-Ends-

Notes to Editors:

The JCCP Education and Training Register is open for practitioners to join. It is freely available for the public to view on the JCCP website.

For further information on the role of the JCCP and its Education and Training activities, please contact:

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For general information and enquiries on the JCCP go to:
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For further information on standards for non-surgical aesthetic treatments and hair restoration surgery please go to:
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