



28 October 2008

All fully and conditionally registered medical practitioners

GUIDELINES ON AESTHETIC PRACTICES

1. It was announced in July 2008 that the Academy of Medicine, Singapore (AMS), College of Family Physicians, Singapore (CFPS) and the Singapore Medical Council (SMC) shall jointly implement a framework for aesthetic practice and that the guidelines will take effect from 1 November 2008.

Updated Guidelines on Aesthetic Practices

2. The SMC, together with its Ethics Committee and Aesthetic Practice Oversight Committee (APOC) have reviewed and updated the Guidelines on Aesthetic Practices. Practitioners who are currently carrying out aesthetic procedures or who intend to do so are advised to refer to the SMC's website at www.smc.gov.sg for details. The following explanations are to assist practitioners for the List A, List B and other aesthetic procedures found in the updated guidelines (see enclosed).

List A, List B and Other Aesthetic Procedures

(A) Doctors who have been performing or who intend to perform List A Aesthetic Procedures

3. Doctors who have been performing aesthetic procedures with a track record of the requisite number of cases done with good outcomes (for each specific procedure) need not submit any notification to the SMC (see guidelines enclosed). These doctors can continue to practise.

4. Doctors *without* a track record of the requisite numbers done with good outcomes *but have acquired a certificate* (overseas or local training courses) and who wish to perform aesthetic procedures should submit the List A notification form (together with copies of their certificates) to the SMC's APOC for verification whether it could be considered a certificate of competence (COC).

5. Doctors are strongly encouraged to engage in a quality framework or peer review and case discussions on a regular basis if they perform or intend to perform aesthetic procedures.

(B) Doctors who wish to perform any List B Aesthetic Procedure

6. Aesthetic procedures under List B are currently regarded as having low or very low level of evidence and are not considered as well-established. Doctors who wish to perform List B aesthetic procedures should list themselves with the SMC's APOC using the prescribed List B notification form before carrying out any List B aesthetic procedure.

7. The Ministry of Health (MOH) will also send out a circular to all healthcare institution licensees regarding List B aesthetic procedures. MOH will require licensees to inform their doctors to list themselves with the SMC's APOC if their doctors wish to perform any List B aesthetic procedures in their healthcare institutions. Doctors may be subject to audit and should comply with requirements set by the SMC's APOC and MOH. Proper documentation of the indications and outcomes of the treatments and procedures are of utmost importance.

(C) Doctors who wish to perform other Aesthetic Procedures

8. Doctors who wish to perform procedures that fall within the definition of Aesthetic Practice in the guidelines but which are not found in either List A or List B will also have to list themselves with the SMC's APOC (using the prescribed List B and Other Aesthetic Procedures notification form). The APOC may then decide on the classification of the procedure or further dictate how the doctor should proceed. It is recommended that doctors should not practise such procedures until they have been classified by the SMC's APOC.

9. The relevant forms can be downloaded from the SMC's website at www.smc.gov.sg.

Safeguarding Patients' Interest and Upholding Professional Medical Standards

10. It is recommended that doctors who have been performing aesthetic procedures have sufficient and appropriate medical malpractice insurance to safeguard patients' interests. All registered medical practitioners 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's Ethical Code and Ethical Guidelines.



PROF FOCK KWONG MING
MASTER
ACADEMY OF MEDICINE,
SINGAPORE



A/PROF GOH LEE GAN
PRESIDENT
COLLEGE OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS,
SINGAPORE



PROF HO LAI YUN
CHAIRMAN
AESTHETIC PRACTICE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
SINGAPORE MEDICAL COUNCIL