

**AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE
OF COSMETIC SURGERY
AND MEDICINE**

ENDORSEMENT POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

The Medical Board of Australia’s *Guidelines for registered medical practitioners who perform cosmetic surgery and procedures* (the “MBA Guidelines”) defines cosmetic surgery as “cutting beneath the skin. Examples include breast augmentation, abdominoplasty, rhinoplasty, blepharoplasty, surgical face lifts, cosmetic genital surgery, and liposuction and fat transfer.” The definition applies only to surgery for aesthetic or cosmetic purposes, and not to surgery that has a medical justification, such as reconstructive surgery.

The Medical Board of Australia’s *Registration Standard: Endorsement of registered medical practitioners for the approved area of cosmetic surgery* (“MBA Registration Standard) took effect on 1 July 2023. It outlines the requirements for endorsement in the area of cosmetic surgery, which are provided in Section 3 below.

2. PURPOSE

This policy provides the criteria for the endorsement of medical practitioners as cosmetic surgeons as defined in the *MBA Guidelines*.

3. SCOPE

This policy provides the requirements for the endorsement of medical practitioners as cosmetic surgeons. It does not apply to medical practitioners performing non-surgical cosmetic procedures or reconstructive surgery as defined in the *MBA Guidelines*.

4. ENDORSEMENT AS A COSMETIC SURGEON

4.1 PATHWAYS TO ENDORSEMENT (ACCSM)

There are two ACCSM pathways to endorsement as a cosmetic surgeon under the Medical Board of Australia’s *Registration Standard: Endorsement of registered medical practitioners for the approved area of cosmetic surgery*.

4.1.1 Grandparenting Pathway

To qualify for endorsement under this pathway, medical practitioners must have been admitted to Fellowship of the ACCSM as a Fellow of the Faculty of Surgery (FACCSM Surg) prior **30 June 2023**, via completion of the ACCSM Cosmetic Surgery Training Program or a pathway deemed equivalent by the ACCSM Board of Censors and provide evidence to satisfy the evidentiary requirements in Section 3.2.

4.1.2 Training Program Completion Pathway

To qualify for endorsement under this pathway, medical practitioners must successfully complete all components of the ACCSM Cosmetic Surgery Training Program. Completion of the Cosmetic Surgery Training Program is an essential prerequisite for admission to Fellowship of the ACCSM Faculty of Surgery. Refer to the *Admission to Fellowship Policy* for detailed information.

4.2 SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

All practitioners seeking endorsement as a cosmetic surgeon under the grandparenting pathway must show evidence of:

- Current medical registration, with no conditions or restrictions on practice.
- Compliance with the Medical Board of Australia's Recency of Practice standard, specifically in relation to the practice of cosmetic surgery. Refer to the *ACCSM Recency of Practice Policy section 2 and 3* for more details.
- Compliance with the Medical Board of Australia's *Continuing Professional Development standard* and the program requirements of their CPD Home.
- Meet the Medical Board of Australia's professional indemnity insurance requirements.

4.3 GOVERNANCE

The ACCSM Surgical Dean is responsible for considering admission applications to ACCSM Fellowship, in accordance with the *ACCSM Admission to Fellowship Policy*.

Fellowship of the ACCSM Faculty of Surgery qualifies the practitioner for endorsement by the ACCSM as a cosmetic surgeon.

4.4 NOTIFYING AHPRA OF ENDORSEMENT

Endorsed practitioners should submit a copy of their Fellowship certificate to AHPRA and their medical indemnity insurer, for recognition by AHPRA as an endorsed cosmetic surgeon.

5. EVALUATION

The ACCSM will include data about endorsement as part of its monitoring and evaluation framework for the Cosmetic Surgery training program. Adjustments to the policy may be made if evidence suggests that it is not fit for purpose. Data may also be used to inform changes to the curriculum.

6. RELATED RESOURCES

- ACCSM Admission to Fellowship Policy
- ACCSM Recency of Practice Policy
- Medical Board of Australia *Registration Standard: Endorsement of registered medical practitioners for the approved area of cosmetic surgery*
- Medical Board of Australia's *Guidelines for registered medical practitioners who perform cosmetic surgery and procedures.*

7. CONTACT

For further information and advice about this policy please contact the ACCSM office.

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