



The Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery

Raising Standards, Protecting Patients

27 April, 2020

Update: Covid 19 and the provision of cosmetic surgical and medical procedures

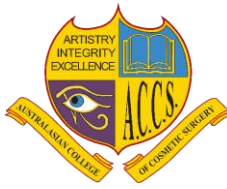
Dear Fellows,

Following the Prime Minister's meeting with National Cabinet last Tuesday 21 April 2020, recommencement of some elective surgeries was authorised from today, Monday 27 April 2020.¹ Last Thursday 23 April 2020, the Department of Health issued further information on an incremental approach to relaxation of the restrictions, commencing with an initial two-week period to allow some volume regulation and refinement of patient selection processes. I wish to make it clear to Fellows that the relaxation specifically excludes cosmetic surgical procedures.²

Whilst the situation is less prescriptive with respect to cosmetic treatments and has been confused by recent statements reported in the media, the pragmatic realities are just as clear. Considerations around essential versus non-essential services and social distancing remain unchanged. Enforceable restrictions regarding justifiable reasons to leave home remain in place. These apply to everyone including patients and have direct and obvious implications for non-surgical clinical practice. Your College also asks Fellows to be particularly sensitive to the plight of fellow Australians at this time. Many are suffering terrible economic hardship as a result of the COVID-19 crisis and perceptions by the public and media of those offering cosmetic treatments may be adverse and cause lasting reputational damage.

Additionally, discussions with medical indemnity organisations have indicated that cover may not apply for cosmetic procedures performed at this time. As such indemnity is a requirement of registration with AHPRA, I would urge you to confirm with your insurer that you are covered before recommencing treatments in the future. As the situation evolves, please continue to refer to my previous correspondence of late March 2020.

The College remains very supportive of the handling of this matter by the Australian Government and will continue to act in accordance with its recommendations and in a manner to uphold the reputation of the College and all its Fellows and associates.



The Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery

Raising Standards, Protecting Patients

The College is acutely aware of the continuing economic impact on all who provide cosmetic procedures. It is by strictly adhering to the regulations that the likely timeframe for this to improve will be minimised. I wish you, your families and your staff continued good health at this difficult time.

Kind regards,

Patrick Tansley
President
Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery

MB BChir (Cantab) PGDipSurgAnat BSc (Hons) MScAesPlasSurg MD FRCS (Eng) FRCS (Plast) FACCS

1. Morrison S. Update on Coronavirus Measures. 2020; <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/update-coronavirus-measures-210420>. Accessed 21 April 2020.
2. Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) statement on restoration of elective surgery. 2020; <https://www.health.gov.au/news/australian-health-protection-principal-committee-ahppc-statement-on-restoration-of-elective-surgery>. Accessed 23 April 2020.