

Plastic Cosmetic Surgery or Plastic Reconstructive Surgery and Tattoo Removal

Policy Number 1.100

Policy Function Continuum of Care

Issue Date 8 March 2017

Summary This policy provides Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network staff with guidelines for appropriate assessment and/or referral for patients requiring plastic cosmetic surgery or plastic reconstructive surgery and tattoo removal. All referrals made, must meet JH&FMHN criteria as set out in this policy.

Responsible Officer Executive Director Clinical Operations

- Applicable Sites**
- Administration Centres
 - Community Sites (e.g. Court Liaison Service, Community Integration Team, etc.)
 - Health Centres (Adult Correctional Centres or Police Cells)
 - Health Centres (Juvenile Justice Centres)
 - Long Bay Hospital
 - Forensic Hospital

Previous Issue(s) Policy 1.100 (March 2013; May 2009)

Change Summary Update of terminology and minor changes to name of policy

TRIM Reference POLJH/1100

Authorised by Chief Executive, Justice Health & Forensic Mental Health Network

1. Preface

Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network (JH&FMHN) staff may only make recommendations for patients to undergo plastic cosmetic surgery or plastic reconstructive surgery and tattoo removal, under specific and exceptional circumstances.

Plastic Surgery is a surgical specialty that deals with the reconstruction of facial and body tissue that requires a reshaping or remoulding due to disease, defect, or disorder - in order to approximate a normal appearance or to repair working ability.

Reconstructive Surgery may be performed by many different surgeons to correct or repair abnormal structures of the body caused by congenital defects, developmental abnormalities, trauma, infection, tumours, or disease so as to improve function or create a normal appearance to the extent possible.

2. Policy Content

2.1 Mandatory Requirements

Essential Plastic Surgery or Reconstructive Surgery

Patients should be referred by JH&FMHN general practitioners to plastic surgeons for consideration of plastic surgery or to other appropriate surgeons for reconstructive surgery in the following situations only:

- There is significant physical deformity; or
- The surgery is part of ongoing management of a serious condition such as trauma, burns or malignancy; or
- A JH&FMHN psychiatrist has advised that such surgery is necessary to decrease symptom severity or improve the clinical condition of a mentally ill patient. The JH&FMHN psychiatrist will make the relevant referral.

Referrals for plastic surgery in any other situation must be discussed on an individual basis with the Clinical Director Primary and Women's Health in conjunction with psychiatric recommendations which may include consultation with the Clinical Director Forensic and Long Bay Hospitals, Clinical Director Custodial Mental Health or Clinical Director Adolescent Health. Patients must give consent to be risk assessed by Corrective Services New South Wales (CSNSW) / the private operators or Juvenile Justice NSW (JJNSW)

Tattoo Removal

Tattoo Removal is not an essential health requirement and not a service provided by JH&FMHN.

A JH&FMHN referral to a specialist for tattoo removal may only be made for specific and exceptional health endangering circumstances. Such a referral can only be made by a JH&FMHN psychiatrist and must be in collaboration with the Clinical Director Primary and Women's Health. Requests in any other situations must be discussed on an individual basis with the Clinical Director Primary and Women's Health.

Before tattoo removal is carried out, the patient must be risk assessed as above and also give consent so that CSNSW/the private operators or JJNSW can update personal description forms.

Non – Essential Plastic Surgery and Non-Essential Tattoo Removal

The general principle of JH&FMHN is to provide evidence based clinical services as required to preserve the patient’s health and generally be equivalent to publically funded health services available within the community.

Patients may also request Non – Essential Elective Plastic Surgery or Procedures. In such situations patients may engage/access private health services external to JH&FMHN. These services must be provided in accordance with JH&FMHN Policies [1.080](#) *Clinical Services Provided by JH&FMHN* and [1.253](#) *Access to Private Health Services*.

3. Definitions

Must

Indicates a mandatory action required that must be complied with.

Should

Indicates a recommended action that should be followed unless there are sound reasons for taking a different course of action

4. Related Documents

Ministry of Health [PD2014_036](#) *Clinical Procedure Safety*

JH&FMHN Policies [1.080](#) *Clinical Services Provided by JH&FMHN*

[1.096](#) *Clinical Procedure Safety*

[1.253](#) *Access to Private Health Services*