



Winter 2025



L7 BULLETIN

NO.15

LICENSING AND REGULATION IN 2026

A NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTORS

The Scottish Government has also proposed mandating a minimum age of 18 for patients, or 16 with parental consent, for cosmetic procedures.

ENGLAND'S LICENSING FRAMEWORK

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) published its consultation response in August 2025, confirming commitment to introducing a licensing scheme. A further public consultation is expected in early 2026.

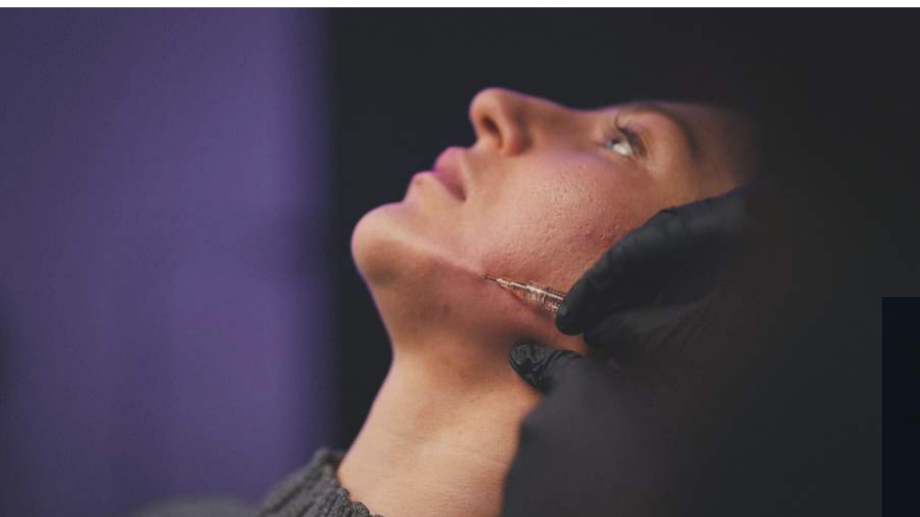
The government has committed to:

Restricting high-risk procedures first: Cosmetic procedures deemed to pose the highest risk (such as liquid BBLs) will be classified as Care Quality Commission (CQC) regulated activities, restricted to specified regulated healthcare professionals.

Implementing local authority licensing: Lower-risk procedures will be licensed through local authorities under powers granted by the Health and Care Act 2022. Introducing age restrictions: Under-18s will be banned from accessing certain treatments unless authorised by a healthcare professional.

The RAG-rating system (Red, Amber, Green) proposed in 2023 remains the framework, though final classifications are still being determined:

- Red procedures will be totally restricted to regulated healthcare practitioners by mid-2026, with many likely to become doctor-only. Hair restoration, teeth whitening, and weight loss injections are under active discussion.
- Amber procedures may be performed by beauty therapists under direct supervision of a regulated healthcare practitioner who must be on-site and, for prescription medicines, must also be the prescriber.
- Green procedures will require licensing but with less stringent practitioner requirements.



REMOTE PRESCRIBING: THE RULES HAVE CHANGED

A significant regulatory shift has already taken effect. From 1 June 2025, the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) mandated that nursing and midwifery prescribers must consult with patients face-to-face before issuing prescriptions for non-surgical cosmetic procedures.

This applies to:

- Botulinum toxin injections
- Local anaesthetics (injected or topical)
- Weight loss treatments
- Emergency aesthetic medications such as hyaluronidase

Remote prescribing via telephone, video call, or online is not considered appropriate for cosmetic procedures. This brings the NMC in line with the position already held by the General Medical Council (GMC), General Dental Council (GDC), and General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC).

The JCCP has confirmed that remote prescribing of prescription-only medicines for aesthetic procedures is now considered unacceptable across all four professional regulatory bodies. Physiotherapists have also been explicitly advised by their chartered body that they should not be prescribing botulinum toxin.



A UNIFIED TRAINING FRAMEWORK

Perhaps the most significant development for existing practitioners is the move toward unified national education and training standards. By April 2026, new standards will be established that:

- Apply consistently across all four UK nations
- Integrate regulated vocational qualifications, university programmes, and apprenticeships under one framework
- Build upon the existing JCCP Education and Training Framework (2018) and National Occupational Standards
- Align with BCAM and British Association of Medical Aesthetic Nurses frameworks

The JCCP's 2024/25 Annual Report confirms that Level 7 qualifications from approved providers—including VTCT and OTHM programmes delivered by JCCP-approved centres—are positioned to meet anticipated licensing requirements in England for 2026/2027.

For existing practitioners, a credentialing route will recognise prior regulated qualifications and experience. This may involve:

- Gap analyses to identify additional training needs
- Top-up modules for specific treatments (e.g., PRP)
- Evidence of competency aligned with the JCCP/CPSA Competency Framework

Non-medical practitioners seeking to enter the field face a more structured pathway. The apprenticeship route will require progression through Levels 3-6 before applying for Level 7, with no shortcuts available.

Milestone	Expected Date
NMC remote prescribing ban	Already in effect (1 June 2025)
Scotland Non-surgical Cosmetic Procedures Bill introduction	Before May 2026
Scottish regulation implementation	Spring 2026
England: Red procedure restrictions	Mid-2026
England: New consultation on licensing	Early 2026
England: Amber/Green licensing	Within two years
Unified UK training standards	April 2026



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

If you hold a Level 7 qualification from a JCCP-approved provider, you're well-positioned for these changes. The emphasis on degree-level competencies and structured credentialing pathways reinforces the value of comprehensive postgraduate training.

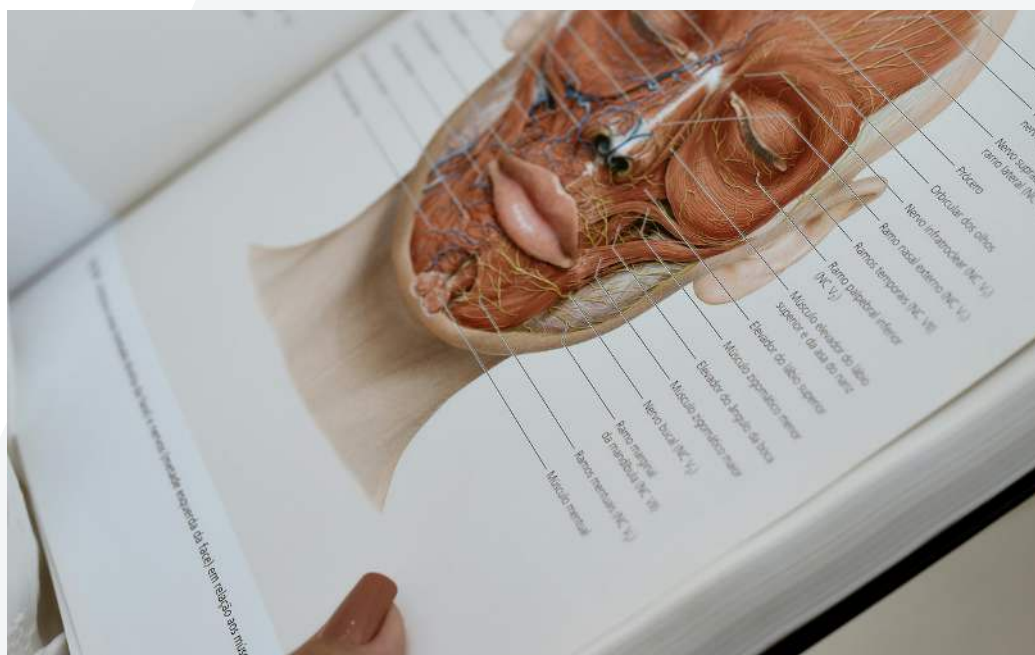
Action points for practitioners:

1. Ensure your prescribing arrangements are compliant. Face-to-face consultations are now mandatory before any prescription can be issued for cosmetic procedures.
2. Review your qualifications. Consider whether additional training or gap-fill modules might be needed, particularly for treatments like PRP that may require specific credentialing.
3. Stay informed. Follow updates from the JCCP, which continues to publish regular podcasts and bulletins.
4. Document your experience. The credentialing pathway will recognise prior learning and clinical experience, so maintaining comprehensive records of your training and practice will be valuable.

Current programmes continue as normal, with adequate transition periods built into the timeline. These changes position those with robust qualifications well for the future of aesthetic medicine in the UK.

If you'd like to learn more about what this means for you and the Level 7 Diploma please get in touch with the the team you can do so here:

[Get in Touch](#)



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM YOUR DIRECTORS

Dear delegates,

As 2025 draws to a close,
we extend our heartfelt
gratitude for another
year of fruitful
collaboration and
dedication.

We sincerely appreciate
your support.

Wishing you a joyous
Christmas season and a
prosperous New Year in
2026.

Dr. Priya, Dr. Lara
& the team at
Acquisition Aesthetics

