Justice Health and
Forensic Mental Health Network

Justice Health NSW Policy

Plastic Cosmetic Surgery, Plastic Reconstructive Surgery or Tattoo Removal

Issue Date: 02 November 2023

Together for Healthier Tomorrows

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Plastic Cosmetic Surgery, Plastic Reconstructive Surgery or Tattoo Removal

Policy Number 1.100

Policy Function Continuum of Care

Issue Date 02 November 2023

Next Review Date 02 November 2026

Risk Rating High

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

Responsible Officer General Manager, Primary Care

Applies to
- ☐ Administration Centres
- ☐ Community Sites and programs
- ☒ Health Centres - Adult Correctional Centres or Police Cells
- ☒ Health Centres - Youth Justice Centres
- ☒ Long Bay Hospital
- ☒ Forensic Hospital

CM Reference POLJH/1100

Change summary
- Routine review

Authorised by Chair, Policy Steering Committee

Revision History

#	Issue Date	Number and Name	Change Summary
7	November 2023	1.100 Plastic Cosmetic Surgery, Plastic Reconstructive Surgery or Tattoo Removal	• Routine review
6	August 2020	1.100 Plastic Cosmetic Surgery, Plastic Reconstructive Surgery or Tattoo Removal	• Reconfiguration to align with the current policy template • Updated hyperlinks and references
5	March 2017	1.100 Plastic Cosmetic Surgery or Plastic Reconstructive Surgery and Tattoo Removal	• Title change • Minor change to terminology to improve readability

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4	March 2013	1.100 Plastic Surgery and Tattoo Removal	• Minor edits
3	May 2009	1.100 Plastic Surgery and Tattoo Removal	• Title change • Minor edits
2	June 2005	1.100 Cosmetic Surgery and Tattoo Removal	• General review – change in departmental name and updated policy content
1	September 2000	1.100 Cosmetic Surgery & Tattoo Removal	• New policy

PRINT WARNING

Printed copies of this document, or parts thereof, must not be relied on as a current reference document.

Always refer to the electronic copy for the latest version.

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1. Preface

This policy provides Justice Health NSW staff with the appropriate assessment and/or referral process for patients requiring plastic cosmetic surgery, plastic reconstructive surgery, or tattoo removal.

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 to approximate a normal appearance or to repair working ability.

Reconstructive surgery is a surgical procedure to correct or repair abnormal structures of the body caused by congenital defects, developmental abnormalities, trauma, infection, tumours, or disease to improve or restore normal function and appearance.

2. Policy Content

2.1 Roles and Responsibilities

All staff must follow this policy when assessing and/or referring patients for plastic cosmetic surgery, plastic reconstructive surgery, or tattoo removal.

2.2 Implementation – Roles and Responsibilities

2.2.1 Chief Executive

- Must provide managers with the resources to support compliance with this policy and its associated procedures.

2.2.2 General Manager Primary Care

- Must review all reported incidents of non-compliance with this policy.

2.2.3 Clinical Director Primary Care

- Must ensure compliance with this policy and its associated procedures.

2.2.4 Managers

- Must ensure compliance with this policy and its associated procedures.
- Must bring this policy and its associated procedures to the attention of all Network staff.

2.2.5 Justice Health NSW Staff

- Must comply with this policy and its associated procedures.

3. Definitions

Must

Indicates a mandatory action to be complied with.

Should

Indicates a recommended action to be complied with unless there are sound reasons for taking a different course of action.

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4. Procedure Content

Justice Health NSW staff may only make recommendations for patients to undergo plastic cosmetic surgery, plastic reconstructive surgery, or tattoo removal, under specific and exceptional circumstances.

The assessment and referral processes are as follows:

4.1 Essentail Plastic Surgery or Reconstructive Surgery

Patients should be referred by the Primary Care Medical Officer (MO) or Nurse Practitioner (NP) 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
- The Justice Health NSW Psychiatrist has advised that such surgery is necessary to decrease symptom severity or improve the clinical condition of a mentally ill patient in which case the Justice Health NSW Psychiatrist will make the relevant referral in collaboration with the Clinical Director Primary Care.

Referrals for plastic surgery in any other situation must be discussed on an individual basis with the Clinical Director Primary Care in conjunction with psychiatric recommendations which may include consultation with the Clinical Director Forensic Hospital, Clinical Director Custodial Mental Health, or Clinical Director Adolescent Health. Patients must give consent to have a security risk assessment by Corrective Services New South Wales (CSNSW) / the private operators or Youth Justice NSW (YJNSW). Referral for surgical gender affirmation is covered under Policy 1.410 *Management of Trans and Gender Diverse Patients*.

4.2 Tattoo Removal

Tattoo removal is not an essential health requirement and not a service provided by Justice Health NSW.

A referral from Justice Health NSW 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 the Justice Health NSW Psychiatrist and must be in collaboration with the Clinical Director Primary Care.

5. Non-Essential Plastic Surgery and Non-Essential Tattoo Removal

The general principle of Justice Health NSW is to provide evidence based clinical services through excellence in patient centred care across community, inpatient and custodial settings to preserve the patient's health and wellbeing and generally be equivalent to publicly 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 Justice Health NSW. These services much be provided in accordance with the following Justice Health NSW policies:

1.253 *Access to Private Health Services*

Overview JHFMHN Services Sept 2022 (DG75621/22)

6. Related Documents

Legislations	
Justice Health NSW Policies, Guidelines and Procedures	1.253 *Access to Private Health Services* 1.410 *Management of Trans and Gender Diverse Patients*
Justice Health NSW Forms	
NSW Health Policy Directives and Guidelines	PD2025_006 *Clinical Procedure Safety*
Other documents and resources	*Overview JHFMHN Services Sept 2022* (DG75621/22)