

# Healthcare Improvement Scotland Regulations 2017

**From 1st April 2017 all cosmetic clinics in Scotland will be legally required to register with [Healthcare Improvement Scotland](#)** – GP Matters has registered. It is not optional for any nurse, doctor or dentist in Scotland to avoid this and any clinic doing so is breaking the law.

This new requirement covers all ‘independent clinics’ – which includes such individuals as nurses who rent out private rooms or treat people in their own homes, private businesses that offer aesthetic treatments by medical professionals, and private dentists whose practice is entirely independent of their local health board.

The Scottish Government has taken this step following recommendations of the Scottish Cosmetic Interventions Expert Group. The group was set up by Scottish ministers in January 2014 to look at the best way to regulate the growing cosmetic industry.

Maureen Watt, Minister for Public Health, said:

“Cosmetic procedures, both surgical and non-surgical, have increased massively in popularity over the last few years. As this research shows, many people are not aware that there is no regulation of independent clinics who provide non-surgical cosmetics procedures.

“There are many reputable practitioners in Scotland, but unfortunately there are others who do not live up to those high standards. That can lead to complications after procedures, sometimes leaving the customer with lasting injuries. By introducing a sound system of regulation and inspection we hope to reduce those instances.”

At GP Matters the safety and well-being of our patients is of paramount importance and we welcome the registration and inspection of all independent clinics. The regulations will ensure that the industry performs to a high standard that continually improves and will ensure that patients get the best possible care every time.

You can [check here](#) to see if your practitioner is registered.