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European Aesthetic Surgery standard gets approval to publish

BSI, the business standards company has worked collaboratively with professionals within the cosmetic surgery industry to develop the new European standard EN 16372 *Aesthetic Surgery Services*. The standard is of importance to the private plastic surgery clinics in the UK who provide their services to anybody wanting to change their physical appearance by cosmetic surgery.

The standard was developed to provide an improvement in the level of aesthetic surgery services to enhance patient safety and satisfaction, and reduce the risk of complications. The aim is to promote consistently high standards for aesthetic surgery service providers across Europe and the UK. It has been developed in conjunction with a second proposed European Standard on non—surgical cosmetic treatments, which is still under deliberation.

The market is already 'Europeanized' with patients travelling to other countries to have procedures, where markets are often unregulated and patients are vulnerable to complications. The standard will help create a level playing field in Europe and ensure that the reputation of competent well-trained surgeons is not compromised at the hands of those who are not fit to practice.

The standard provides a set of requirements, which are considered essential for the provision of aesthetic surgery services by private facilities. It covers the entire service level: before, during and after the aesthetic procedure has been carried out.

It includes:

- Ethics and marketing
- Consultation procedure
- Competencies
- Management and communication with patients
- Available facilities
- Categorization and risk level of the procedures

Anne Hayes Head of Market Development for Governance & Risk at BSI said: "This is a very significant move in creating an equal system for both the UK and Europe. In an area where the public choose to have a procedure, it is important that standards exist and provide confidence to both patients and those working in the sector. EN 16372 enables this to happen."

Some of the organizations involved in the consensus-based development of EN 16372 include: British Association of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons (BAAPS), British Association of Plastic Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgeon (BAPRAS) and Independent Healthcare Advisory Services (IHAS) amongst others.

Nigel Mercer, Vice President at BAPRAS and past President of BAAPS said: "We often hear and see cases within aesthetic surgery where patients have suffered complications or faced unnecessary risks as a result of poorly qualified practitioners. Patient safety has to be the primary consideration for everyone working within this specialized field. Now, the impending European standard for Aesthetic Surgery Services means that patients can have the peace of mind that they are being treated by an appropriately qualified practitioner, in an appropriate facility, in accordance to set guidelines, which include standards on advertising."

- ENDS-

Notes to editors

- Some of the other organizations involved in the development of EN 16372 include: Association of Aesthetics, Injectables & Cosmetics, Health Education North West London, British Association of Cosmetic Nurses, British Association of Beauty Therapy and Cosmetology, British Dental Association, British Association of Dermatologists, British Medical Laser Association, Care Quality Commission, Health Inspectorate Wales, Independent Healthcare Association Royal College of Ophthalmologists, NHS Quality Improvement Scotland, The Primary Care Dermatology Society, British College of Aesthetic Medicine and the British Association of Oral and Maxillo-Facial Surgeons
- Procedures covered by EN 16372 include: free fat grafting, liposuction, blepharoplasty, brow lifts, rhytidectomy, rhinoplasty, alloplastic facial implants, hair flaps and scalp reduction, correction of prominent ears, genioplasty, breast reduction, augmentation mammoplasty, correction of breast ptosis, nipple areola correction, pseudo gynecomastia, breast asymmetry correction, brachioplasty, body lift, penis augmentation, nymphoplasty, abdominoplasty, buttock lift and thigh lift

About BSI

BSI (British Standards Institution) is the business standards company that equips businesses with the necessary solutions to turn standards of best practice into habits of excellence. Formed in 1901, BSI was the world's first National Standards Body and a founding member of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). Over a century later it continues to facilitate business improvement across the globe by helping its clients drive performance, manage risk and grow sustainably through the adoption of international management systems standards, many of which BSI originated. Renowned for its marks of excellence including the consumer recognized BSI Kitemark™, BSI's influence spans multiple sectors including aerospace, construction, energy, engineering, finance, healthcare, IT and retail. With over 72,000 clients in 150 countries, BSI is an organization whose standards inspire excellence across the globe.

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