



## Level 7 Award in Clinical Aesthetic Procedures: Poly-L-Lactic Acid (PLLA) Dermal Fillers

## Level 7 Award in Clinical Aesthetic Procedures: Ultrasound-Guided Dermal Fillers

### Specification (For Centres)

January 2026

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## About QUALIFI

QUALIFI is recognised and regulated by Ofqual (Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulator). Our Ofqual reference number is RN5160. Ofqual regulates qualifications, examinations, and assessments in England.

As an Ofqual recognised Awarding Organisation, QUALIFI is required to carry out external quality assurance to ensure that centres approved for the delivery and assessment of QUALIFI's qualifications meet the required standards. This comprises centre approval, qualification approval and ongoing monitoring through our External Quality Assurance and annual centre monitoring processes.

### Why Choose QUALIFI Qualifications?

QUALIFI qualifications aim to support learners to develop the necessary knowledge, skills and understanding to support their professional development within their chosen career and/or to provide opportunities for progression to further study.

Our qualifications provide opportunities for learners to:

- apply analytical and evaluative thinking skills
- develop problem-solving and creativity to tackle problems and challenges
- exercise judgement and take responsibility for their decisions and actions
- develop the ability to recognise and reflect on personal learning and improve their personal, social, and other transferable skills.

### Employer Support for the Qualification Development

During the development of this qualification QUALIFI consulted with a range of employers, providers and existing centres (where applicable) to ensure rigour, validity and demand for the qualification and to ensure that the development considers the potential learner audience for the qualification and assessment methods.

### Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

QUALIFI qualifications are developed to be accessible to all learners who are capable of attaining the required standard. QUALIFI promotes equality, diversity and inclusion across all aspects of the qualification process. Centres are required to implement the same standards of EDI and ensure teaching and learning are free from any barriers that may restrict access and progression. For further details please refer to QUALIFI's *Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy*.

Learners with any specific learning needs should discuss this in the first instance with their approved centre who will refer to QUALIFI's *Reasonable Adjustment and Special Consideration Policy*.

## Qualification Title and Accreditation Number

This qualification has been accredited to the Regulated Qualification Framework (RQF) and has its own unique Qualification Accreditation Number (QAN). This number will appear on the learner's final certification document. Each unit within the qualification has its own RQF code. The QAN for this qualification is as follows:

**Qualifi Level 7 Award in Clinical Aesthetic Procedures: Poly-L-Lactic Acid (PLLA) Dermal Fillers 610/7012/9**

**Qualifi Level 7 Award in Clinical Aesthetic Procedures: Ultrasound-Guided Dermal Fillers 610/7011/7**

## Qualification Aims and Learning Outcomes

### Aims of the QUALIFI Level 7 Awards in Clinical Aesthetic Procedures

The aim of the QUALIFI Level 7 Awards in Clinical Aesthetic Procedures is to provide learners with an understanding of advanced aesthetic procedures and essential underpinning knowledge to perform dermal fillers safely and effectively. Learners will develop practical skills to progress their career within the field of elective non-surgical cosmetic procedures.

Successful completion of the QUALIFI Level 7 Awards in Aesthetic Procedures provides learners with the opportunity to progress to employment within the Aesthetics industry.

Learning Outcomes of the **QUALIFI Level 7 Award in Clinical Aesthetic Procedures: Poly-L-Lactic Acid (PLLA) Dermal Fillers** and the **QUALIFI Level 7 Award in Clinical Aesthetic Procedures: Ultrasound-Guided Dermal Fillers**

The overall learning outcomes of the qualification are for learners to:

- **Clinical Aesthetic Procedures: Poly-L-Lactic Acid (PLLA) Dermal Fillers** – learners will learn advanced theoretical and practical knowledge of Poly-L-Lactic Acid (PLLA) dermal filler procedures, to support the development of clinical expertise in patient assessment, product selection, procedural execution, and complication management.
- **Clinical Aesthetic Procedures: Ultrasound-Guided Dermal Fillers** – learners will learn advanced theoretical knowledge and clinical competency to enhance the safe administration of dermal fillers using ultrasound technology. It promotes the integration of diagnostic imaging for anatomical mapping, complication prevention, and precision in aesthetic procedures.

The learning outcomes and assessment criteria for each unit are outlined in the unit specifications.

## Delivering the Qualification

All centres are required to complete an approval process to be recognised as an approved centre. Centres must have the ability to support learners and:

- have in place qualified and experienced assessors. All assessors are required to undertake regular continued professional development (CPD)
- access to the physical resources needed to support the delivery of the qualification and learner achievement.

Centres must commit to working with QUALIFI and its team of External Quality Assurers (EQAs). Approved centres will be monitored by QUALIFI EQAs to ensure compliance with QUALIFI requirements and to ensure that learners are provided with appropriate learning opportunities, guidance, and formative assessment.

QUALIFI, unless otherwise agreed:

- sets all assessments;
- quality assures assessments prior to certification;
- provides the criteria to award the final mark and issues certificates.

## **Centre staffing**

Staff delivering this qualification should:

- be occupationally competent and/or technically knowledgeable in the area[s] they are assessing,
- have recent relevant experience in the specific area they will be assessing and quality assuring.
- hold, or be working towards, the relevant Assessor/ Internal Quality Assurers (IQAs) qualification (s).

Assessors are assessing learner performance in a range of tasks to ensure the evidence they produce meets the requirements of the unit assessment criteria. To do this effectively assessors need a thorough understanding of assessment and quality assurance practices, as well as in-depth technical understanding related to the qualifications they are assessing.

To support assessors and the centre's internal quality systems, IQAs must have appropriate teaching and vocational skills, knowledge and expertise and be familiar with the occupation and technical content covered within the qualification.

## **Continuing professional development (CPD)**

Centres are expected to support the CPD of their staff to maintain current and up-to-date knowledge of the occupational area and ensure best practice in delivery, mentoring, training, assessment and quality assurance.

For the delivery of the QUALIFI Level 7 Awards in Clinical Aesthetic Practice the following centre requirements need to be in place:

### **Trainer Requirements**

Trainers must be appropriately qualified and occupationally competent in the areas they are training. They must have:

- A minimum of 2 years' experience in the procedures for which they will be training and supervising.
- A L5 Diploma in Education and Training or equivalent.
- Appropriate indemnity insurance
- Undertaken 50 hours Continued Professional Development (CPD) relating to aesthetic practice to maintain and update their skills and knowledge within the last year
- Current and valid Basic Life Support (BLS) and anaphylaxis management qualification

### **Assessor Requirements**

Assessors must be appropriately qualified and occupationally competent in the areas they are assessing. They must have:

- A minimum of 3 years' experience in the procedures for which they will be assessing.
- A L5 Diploma in Education and Training or equivalent.
- A Level 3 Certificate in Assessing Vocational Achievement Or be working towards
- Appropriate indemnity insurance
- Undertaken 50 hours Continued Professional Development (CPD) relating to aesthetic practice to maintain and update their skills and knowledge within the last year
- Current and valid Basic Life Support (BLS) and anaphylaxis management qualification

### **Internal Quality Assurer Requirements**

Internal Quality Assurers must be appropriately qualified and occupationally competent in the areas they are internally quality assuring. They must have:

- A minimum of 2 years' experience in the procedures for which they will be internally verifying.
- A Level 3 Certificate in Assessing Vocational Achievement
- A Level 4 Award in the Internal Quality Assurance of Assessment Processes and Practice and/or Level 4 Certificate in Leading the Internal Quality Assurance of Assessment Processes and Practice or be working towards
- Appropriate indemnity insurance
- Undertaken 50 hours Continued Professional Development (CPD) relating to aesthetic practice to maintain and update their skills and knowledge within the last year.

### **Quality assurance**

Approved Centres must have effective quality assurance systems in place to ensure robust qualification delivery and assessment, which includes internal monitoring and review procedures.

Qualifi will appoint approved External Quality Assurers (EQAs) to monitor the assessment and internal quality assurance carried out by centres and ensure that assessment is valid and reliable. Please see QUALIFI's *External Quality Assurance Policy*.

## Learner Recruitment, Induction and Registration

### Recruitment

Approved Centres are responsible for reviewing and making decisions as to the applicant's ability to complete the learning programme successfully and meet the demands of the qualification. The initial assessment by the centre will need to consider the support that is readily available or can be made available to meet individual learner needs as appropriate.

During recruitment, approved centres need to provide learners with accurate information on the title and focus of the qualification for which they are studying.

The qualification has been designed to be accessible without artificial barriers that restrict access. For this qualification, applicants must be aged **20 years** or over.

In the case of applicants whose first language is not English, centres may assess their level of language at the time of entry.

### Entry Criteria

The qualification has been designed to be accessible without artificial barriers that restrict access and progression. Entry to the qualifications will be through centre interview and learners will be expected to hold the following:

- A Qualifi Level 7 Certificate or Diploma in Clinical Aesthetics Procedures: Dermal Fillers or equivalent regulated qualification.

Plus

- Current and valid Basic Life Support (BLS) and anaphylaxis management qualification\*

\*Qualified medical/health care professionals, registered with a Professional Health Care Statutory Regulatory Body are exempt, providing they can prove that they have undertaken the mandatory BLS and Management of Anaphylaxis training as part of their continuous CPD.

Examples of National Professional Health Care Statutory Regulatory Bodies in the UK:

- General Dentist Council (GDC)
- General Medical Council (GMC)
- General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC)
- Health Care Professions Council (HCPC)
- Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC)
- Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (PSNI)

Examples of International Professional Health Care Statutory Regulatory Bodies examples:

- American Medical Association (AMA)
- Irish Medical Council
- Medical Council of India (MCI)

In addition, all learners must prove they hold a relevant English language qualification if English is not their first language.

### **Learner induction**

Approved Centres should ensure all learners receive a full induction to their study programme and the requirements of the qualification and its assessment.

All learners should expect to be issued with the course handbook and a timetable and meet with their personal tutor and fellow learners. Centres should assess learners carefully to ensure that they are able to meet the requirements of the qualification and that, if applicable, appropriate pathways or optional units are selected to meet the learner's progression requirements.

Centres should check the qualification structures and unit combinations carefully when advising learners. Centres will need to ensure that learners have access to a full range of information, advice and guidance to support them in making the necessary qualification and unit choices.

All learners must be registered with QUALIFI within the deadlines outlined in the *QUALIFI Registration, Results and Certification Policy and Procedure*.

### **Recognition of Prior Learning**

Qualifi recognises and accepts credit (s) from regulated awarding organisations and/or universities that are at the same level, or higher, and which can be mapped to the units in our qualifications. For our theory-based qualifications we will only accept a maximum of 70% of prior/existing credits and reserve the right to not accept any credit dependent on where it was earned. All claims for RPL must be supported by a certificate or transcript of achievement issued by the awarding organisation or university. No credit will be given without a certificate or transcript from a regulated awarding organisation or university.

There must be a minimum 70% overlap between units or learning outcomes for Qualifi to consider approving the request for exemption.

A maximum of 70% of units in a qualification can be submitted for exemption using this method. The remaining 30% (or more) need to be units completed in full and learning outcomes demonstrated using Qualifi's assessments.

Evidence of learning must be valid and reliable. For full guidance on RPL please refer to *QUALIFI's Recognition of Prior Learning Policy*.

### **Data Protection**

All personal information obtained from learners and other sources in connection with studies will be held securely and will be used during the course and after they leave the

course for a variety of purposes and may be made available to our regulators. These should be all explained during the enrolment process at the commencement of learner studies. If learners or centres would like a more detailed explanation of the partner and QUALIFI policies on the use and disclosure of personal information, please contact QUALIFI via email [support@QUALIFI-international.com](mailto:support@QUALIFI-international.com)

## Learner Voice

Learners can play an important part in improving the quality through the feedback they give. In addition to the ongoing discussion with the course team throughout the year, centres will have a range of mechanisms for learners to feed back about their experience of teaching and learning.

## Professional Development and Training for Centres

QUALIFI supports its approved centres with training related to our qualifications. This support is available through a choice of training options offered through publications or through customised training at your centre.

The support we offer focuses on a range of issues including:

- planning for the delivery of a new programme
- planning for assessment and grading
- developing effective assignments
- building your team and teamwork skills
- developing learner-centred learning and teaching approaches
- building in effective and efficient quality assurance systems.

Please contact us for further information.

## Progression and Links to other QUALIFI Programmes

Completing the **QUALIFI Level 7 Award in Clinical Aesthetic Practice in Poly-L-Lactic Acid (PLLA) Dermal Fillers** and the **Qualifi Level 7 Award in Clinical Aesthetic Procedures: Ultrasound-Guided Dermal Fillers** will enable learners to progress to employment in an associated profession, within the field of Aesthetics.

## Qualification Structure and Requirements

### Credits and Total Qualification Time (TQT)

The **QUALIFI Level 7 Award in Clinical Aesthetic Practice in Poly-L-Lactic Acid (PLLA) Dermal Fillers** is made up of 2 credits, which equates to 24 hours of TQT and the **Qualifi Level 7 Award in Clinical Aesthetic Procedures: Ultrasound-Guided Dermal Fillers** is made up of 4 credits, which equates to 36 hours of TQT.

**Total Qualification Time (TQT):** is an estimate of the total amount of time that could reasonably be expected to be required for a learner to achieve and demonstrate the achievement of the level of attainment necessary for the award of a qualification.

Examples of activities that can contribute to Total Qualification Time include: guided learning, independent and unsupervised research/learning, unsupervised compilation of a portfolio of work experience, unsupervised e-learning, unsupervised e-assessment, unsupervised coursework, watching a prerecorded podcast or webinar, unsupervised work-based learning.

**Guided Learning Hours (GLH):** are defined as the time when a tutor is present to give specific guidance towards the learning aim being studied on a programme. This definition includes lectures, tutorials and supervised study in, for example, open learning centres and learning workshops, live webinars, telephone tutorials or other forms of e-learning supervised by a tutor in real time. Guided learning includes any supervised assessment activity; this includes invigilated examination and observed assessment and observed work-based practice.

#### **Rules of Combination for QUALIFI Level 7 Award in Clinical Aesthetic Procedures: Poly-L-Lactic Acid (PLLA) Dermal Fillers**

To achieve this qualification, a learner must successfully complete 1 mandatory unit.  
Minimum credits: 2

Unit Reference	Mandatory/Optional Units	Level	TQT	Credit	GLH
Y/651/9203	Clinical Aesthetic Procedures: Poly-L-Lactic Acid (PLLA) Dermal Fillers	7	24	2	12
<b>Total</b>			<b>24</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>

#### **Rules of Combination for QUALIFI Level 7 Award in Clinical Aesthetic Procedures: Ultrasound-Guided Dermal Fillers**

To achieve this qualification, a learner must successfully complete 1 mandatory unit.  
Minimum credits: 4

Unit Reference	Mandatory/Optional Units	Level	TQT	Credit	GLH
T/651/9202	Clinical Aesthetic Procedures: Ultrasound-Guided Dermal Fillers	7	36	4	18
<b>Total</b>			<b>36</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>18</b>

## **Achievement Requirements**

Learners must demonstrate they have met all learning outcomes and assessment criteria for all the required units to achieve this qualification. QUALIFI will issue e-certificates directly to all successful learners registered with an approved QUALIFI centre.

## **Awarding Classification/Grading**

This qualification grading is: **Pass/Fail**

All units will be internally assessed through practical observation, underpinning knowledge assessments and professional discussion. Assessments will be internally marked by the QUALIFI approved centre and subject to external quality assurance by QUALIFI.

## **Assessment Strategy and Methods**

QUALIFI will provide [enter assessment method e.g. written assessment tasks] for each unit of this qualification. These tasks will address all learning outcomes and related assessment criteria, all of which must be demonstrated/passed, to achieve the qualification.

The tasks will enable learners to draw on work-related information and/or examples wherever possible. Some assessment tasks will contain a practical assignment which will require observation by an assessor, see Assessment Guidance for further information.

The assessment tasks will require learners to draw on real organisational information or case studies to illustrate their answers. To support this activity during the programme of learning, centres are required to make sure that they include case studies of relevant organisations and, wherever possible, encourage learners to draw on work-place opportunities to undertake research and investigation to support their learning.

QUALIFI provides a user-friendly e-portfolio system for candidates to upload their assessment evidence and assignments for Assessors to mark and IQAs to quality assure. Approved centres should undertake the QUALIFI centre development courses to understand how to use the e-portfolio and the benefits to learners and the centre.

Learner assessments will be internally marked by the approved centre and will be subject to external quality assurance by QUALIFI prior to certification.

All learning outcomes and related assessment criteria must be demonstrated/passed in order to achieve the qualification. To achieve a 'pass' for each of the units, learners must provide evidence to demonstrate that they have fulfilled all the learning outcomes and meet the standards specified by all assessment criteria.

Qualifi will provide a combination of assessment that cover the learning outcomes and assessment criteria. These may be as follows.

### **1: Formative Assessment**

Formative assessment is an integral part of the assessment process, involving both the Tutor/Assessor and the learner about their progress during the course of study. Formative

assessment takes place prior to summative assessment and focuses on helping the learner to reflect on their learning and improve their performance and does not confirm achievement of grades/pass-mark, at this stage.

The main function of formative assessment is to provide feedback to enable the learner to make improvements to their work. This feedback should be prompt, so it has meaning and context for the learner and time must be given following the feedback for actions to be complete. Feedback on formative assessment must be constructive and provide clear guidance and actions for improvement. All records should be available for auditing purposes, as QUALIFI may choose to check records of formative assessment as part of our ongoing quality assurance. Formative assessments will not contribute to the overall mark/achievement of the units.

## 2: Summative Assessment

Summative assessment is used to evaluate learner competence and progression at the end of a unit or component. Summative assessment should take place when the assessor deems that the learner is at a stage where competence can be demonstrated.

Learners should be made aware that summative assessment outcomes are subject to confirmation by the Internal Quality Assurer (IQA) and External Quality Assurer (EQA) and thus is provisional and can be overridden. Assessors should annotate on the learner work where the evidence supports their decisions against the assessment criteria. Learners will need to be familiar with the assessment and grading/marking criteria so that they can understand the quality of what is required.

Formative Assessment	Summative Assessment
used during the learning process	used at the end of the learning process
provides feedback on learning-in-process	evaluates achievement against learning outcomes and assessment criteria
dialogue-based, ungraded	graded Pass / Refer

Evidence of both formative and summative assessment **MUST** be made available at the time of external quality assurance – EQA.

## Unit Specifications

### Unit AP709: Clinical Aesthetic Procedures: Poly-L-Lactic Acid (PLLA) Dermal Fillers

Unit code: Y/651/9203

RQF Level: 7

#### Unit Aim

- This unit is designed to provide experienced aesthetic practitioners with advanced theoretical and practical knowledge of Poly-L-Lactic Acid (PLLA) dermal filler procedures. It supports the development of clinical expertise in patient assessment, product selection, procedural execution, and complication management.
- Learners are required to achieve Advanced Aesthetic Procedures – Dermal Fillers for the Face prior to undertaking this unit.

#### Learning Outcomes, and Assessment Criteria

Learning Outcomes. To achieve this unit a learner must be able to:		Assessment Criteria: Assessment of these outcomes demonstrates a learner can:	
LO1	Understand the properties and mode of action of PLLA dermal fillers.	1.1	Explain the biochemical composition and biodegradation process of PLLA
		1.2	Analyse the mechanism of collagen stimulation induced by PLLA
		1.3	Compare PLLA with other dermal fillers (e.g., HA, CaHA, PMMA) in terms of longevity, indications, and mode of action
		1.4	Evaluate the clinical advantages and limitations of PLLA-based procedures
LO2	Demonstrate knowledge of facial anatomy relevant to the use of PLLA dermal fillers	2.1	Identify key facial structures and the danger zones relevant to PLLA injection
		2.2	Describe the vascular and lymphatic considerations for safe PLLA administration
		2.3	Explain how facial ageing affects soft tissues, fat compartments, and skin and how PLLA addresses these changes
LO3	Assess and select suitable clients for PLLA dermal filler procedures	3.1	Conduct a thorough client consultation and aesthetic assessment
		3.2	Identify suitable procedure areas and contraindications for PLLA
		3.3	Develop realistic procedure plans aligned with individual client goals and clinical safety

		3.4	Obtain informed consent and manage client expectations
LO4	Safely prepare and administer PLLA dermal filler procedures	4.1	Reconstitute PLLA according to manufacturer and safety guidelines
		4.2	Apply aseptic and sterile techniques during the procedure
		4.3	Select and perform appropriate injection techniques (e.g., deep dermal/subdermal, fanning, threading)
		4.4	Monitor tissue response and adjust the procedure accordingly
		4.5	Provide structured aftercare guidance to support the client's recovery and outcome
LO5	Understand the risks, complications, and professional responsibilities associated with PLLA use	5.1	Identify immediate and delayed complications (e.g., nodules, granulomas, asymmetry)
		5.2	Evaluate complication management protocols, including referral procedures
		5.3	Explain the role of follow-up in client safety and satisfaction
		5.4	Discuss ethical, legal, and professional guidelines for administering injectable procedures

### Indicative Content

#### Properties and Mode of Action of PLLA

- chemical composition and molecular structure of Poly-L-Lactic acid
- biodegradation process and longevity of PLLA in tissue
- mechanism of neocollagenesis – stimulation of fibroblasts
- comparison with HA, CaHA, and PMMA dermal fillers

#### Facial Anatomy for PLLA Procedures

- key anatomical layers: epidermis, dermis, subcutaneous fat, SMAS
- facial fat compartments and age-related volume loss
- major blood vessels and danger zones (e.g., infraorbital, facial artery)
- anatomy of areas commonly treated with PLLA (e.g., temples, cheeks, jawline)

#### Client Selection and Consultation

- full medical and aesthetic history taking
- contraindications and risk assessment
- treatment planning, client expectations, and informed consent
- assessment tools: facial analysis, grading of volume loss

#### Preparation and Administration

- reconstitution protocols (dilution, timing, storage)
- injection techniques: linear threading, fanning, cross-hatching, bolus

- use of cannulas vs needles
- pain management and aseptic preparation

### **Treatment Areas**

- midface - nasolabial lines, zygomatic, cheek augmentation
- lower face and neck - marionette lines, chin, jawline contouring

### **Treatment methods**

- needle and cannula

### **Complications and Professional Responsibilities**

- nodule formation and granulomas – causes and treatments
- infection prevention and aseptic practice
- legal and ethical considerations in advanced injectables
- managing patient complaints and adverse outcomes

### **Glossary:**

**Adverse reactions:** adverse reactions are also known as adverse incidents or associated risks. An Adverse reaction is an unexpected physical or physiological reaction from a procedure carried out

**Aseptic Technique:** procedures performed under sterile conditions to prevent infection

**Anatomical landmarks:** fixed points used to locate facial structures accurately.

**Cannula:** a blunt-tipped instrument used to reduce the risk of vascular injury during filler procedures

**Contra-action:** contra action is an expected temporary reaction from a procedure

**Contraindicated:** a specific situation in which a drug, procedure, or surgery should not be used because it may be harmful to the person.

**Cranial nerves:** twelve paired nerves arising from the brain; the facial (VII) and trigeminal (V) nerves are most relevant to facial treatments

**Danger zones:** the anatomical regions where arteries and veins are at higher risk during injections.

**Dermis:** the middle layer of skin where collagen and elastin fibres are found

**Dynamic rhytids:** wrinkles caused by repeated muscle movement

**Ethnic variation:** the differences in facial bone structure, soft tissue, and pigmentation among populations

**Emergency plan:** the emergency plan is the responsibility of the aesthetic practitioner that includes use and access to the emergency kit. An identified healthcare professional will act as the regulated independent prescriber if a prescription only medication is required in the event of an adverse reaction. The regulated independent prescriber has a duty of care to their patients to follow regulatory guidelines set by their Professional, Statutory and Regulated Body

**Extrinsic ageing:** the ageing caused by environmental factors like UV exposure and smoking

**Facial artery:** the main artery supplying blood to the superficial facial structures

**Fanning Technique:** a filler injection method where the needle or cannula is inserted and product is deposited in multiple radial directions

**Gender dimorphism:** the anatomical differences between male and female faces (e.g., brow, jawline).

**Granuloma:** a type of delayed immune response causing a firm lump under the skin

**Intrinsic ageing:** the natural, genetically determined ageing processes

**Licensed indication:** the use of a medical product approved by regulatory authorities for specific conditions or areas

**Neocollagenesis:** the process of new collagen formation, stimulated by dermal fillers like PLLA

**PLLA (Poly-L-Lactic Acid):** a biodegradable synthetic polymer used in dermal fillers to stimulate collagen production over time

**Patient specific direction:** prescription specific to the individual and procedure to be carried out.

**Periorbital region:** the area surrounding the eyes.

**Pre-procedure markings:** Pre-procedure markings should be carried out using a sterile single use surgical pen. Pre-procedure markings are used to create guidelines to identify injection sites as set out in the non-surgical cosmetic procedure plan.

**Reconstitution:** the process of mixing PLLA powder with sterile water to prepare it for injection

**Regulated independent prescriber:** regulated independent prescribers are regulated by Professional Statutory Regulatory Bodies. Regulated independent prescribers will hold the relevant qualifications to receive their registration and pin.

Regulated independent prescribers who collaborate with other personnel to carry out dermal filler procedures are responsible to check the aesthetic practitioner is adequately trained and experienced to administer prescription only medicines e.g. hyaluronidase.

**Retrograde Threading:** injection technique where filler is deposited while withdrawing the needle or cannula

**SMAS (Superficial Musculoaponeurotic System):** the layer connecting facial muscles to the dermis, crucial in facial structure and movement.

**Static rhytids:** lines visible at rest due to dermal thinning and collagen loss.

**Treatment area:** the indicative area to be treated, can also be referred to as treatment site or the anatomical name

**Universal precautions and standard precautions:** universal precautions are relevant if the practitioner is exposed to blood and/or some bodily fluid. It is the responsibility of the practitioner to implement infection prevention and control measures to prevent exposure to blood borne pathogens or Other Potentially Infectious Materials (OPIM).

Standard precautions are the basic level of infection control that should be used at all times within the working environment, such as hand hygiene, personal protective equipment, prevention of needlestick and injuries from sharps, risk assessment, respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette, environmental cleaning and waste disposal.

**Vascular occlusion:** the blockage of a blood vessel by filler or external pressure causing ischemia.

**Visual media:** visual media is evidence generated through photography or video.

**Volume loss:** the reduction in subcutaneous fat, muscle, and bone support with age.

**Working environment:** the working environment requirements should comply with Health and Safety legislation and be in accordance with guidelines set out either by your local authority or governing body.

Risk assessments should be undertaken and control methods implemented and documented, updated regularly and/or if changes occur. The working environment should be hygienic and fit for purpose for the non-surgical cosmetic procedures to be conducted safely and effectively using aseptic techniques. Infection prevention and control procedures are required to minimise risk of infection and transmission of microbes.

Personal protective equipment must be fit for purpose and available. Equipment and products must be maintained in line with the manufacturer's instructions and legislative requirements. It is advisable to create a complication management and/or emergency plan for all non-surgical cosmetic procedures in the event of an adverse reaction or incident.

### **Suggested Resources**

- Aging and Aging-Related Diseases: Mechanisms and Interventions: 1086 (Advances in Experimental Medicine and Biology, 1086) 19 Jan. 2019 by Zhao Wang
- Dermal Fillers: Facial Anatomy and Injection Techniques 10 Jun. 2020 by André Vieira Braz and Thais Harumi Sakuma
- A Practical Guide to Dermal Filler Procedures 1 Dec. 2011 by Rebecca Small and Dalano Hoang
- Essentials for Aesthetic Dermatology in Ethnic Skin: Practice and Procedure 29 May 2023 by Mukta Sachdev and Niti Khunger
- Guide to Minimally Invasive Aesthetic Procedures - 29 Oct 2020 by M. Laurin Council
- The Oxford Handbook of Aesthetics (Oxford Handbooks) – 27 Jan. 2005 by Jerrold Levinson
- Aesthetic Procedures: Nurse Practitioner's Guide to Cosmetic Dermatology: Nurses Guide to Cosmetic Dermatology – 5 Oct. 2019 by Beth Haney
- Injectable Fillers in Aesthetic Medicine – 23 Aug. 2016 by Mauricio de Maio, Berthold Rzany
- Facial Danger Zones: Avoiding Nerve Injury in Facial Plastic Surgery Hardcover – 1 Sept. 1994 by Brooke R. Dr. Seckel

- Facial Danger Zones: Staying safe with surgery, fillers, and non-invasive devices – Illustrated, 15 Nov. 2019 by Rod Rohrich
- Illustrated Guide to Injectable Fillers: Basics, Indications, Uses (Aesthetic Methods for Skin Rejuvenation) – 28 Mar. 2016 by Gerhard Sattler and Uliana Gout
- Essentials of Medical Aesthetics: Clinical and Scientific Skin Care & Rejuvenation – 22 Nov. 2011 by Dr Honardoust
- The Art of the Aesthetic Practice: 7 Fundamental Steps to Providing the Ultimate Patient Experience and Maximizing Profitability – 11 Sept. 2017 by Ashley Cloud
- Cosmetic Injection Techniques: A Text and Video Guide to Neurotoxins and Fillers – 11 Mar. 2019 by Theda C. Kontis (Author), Victor G. Lacombe
- Dermal Fillers: Facial Anatomy and Injection Techniques – 10 Jun. 2020 by André Vieira Braz and Thais Harumi Sakuma
- Dermatology: An Illustrated Colour Text Paperback – Illustrated, 17 Nov. 2020 by David Gawkrödger DSc MD FRCP FRCPE and Michael R. Ardern-Jones BSc MBBS FRCP DPhil
- Photographic Atlas of Anatomy 9E International Edition (Lippincott Connect) – 3 April 2021 by Rohen, Johannes W. Yokochi, Chihiro, Lutjen-Drecoll and Elke
- A Practical Guide to Dermal Filler Procedures – 1 Dec. 2011 by Rebecca Small and Dalano Hoang

## Unit AP710: Clinical Aesthetic Procedures: Ultrasound-Guided Dermal Fillers

Unit code: T/651/9202

RQF Level: 7

### Unit Aim

- This unit aims to provide experienced aesthetic practitioners with advanced theoretical knowledge and clinical competency in the safe administration of dermal fillers using ultrasound technology. It promotes the integration of diagnostic imaging for anatomical mapping, complication prevention, and precision in aesthetic procedures.
- Learners are required to have completed the unit in Advanced Aesthetic Procedures: Dermal Fillers for the Face, before undertaking this unit.

### Learning Outcomes, and Assessment Criteria

<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> To achieve this unit a learner must be able to:		<b>Assessment Criteria:</b> Assessment of these outcomes demonstrates a learner can:	
LO1	Understand the principles of diagnostic ultrasound in aesthetic medicine	1.1	Explain the physics and technology underpinning diagnostic ultrasound
		1.2	Analyse the different ultrasound modalities relevant to dermal filler procedures
		1.3	Evaluate the limitations and benefits of ultrasound imaging in aesthetic applications
LO2	Demonstrate comprehensive anatomical knowledge of facial structures relevant to ultrasound-guided filler procedures	2.1	Identify key vascular, muscular, and soft tissue structures on ultrasound
		2.2	Differentiate between tissue planes and identify danger zones in real-time scanning
		2.3	Interpret ultrasound findings to optimise treatment safety and accuracy
LO3	Assess and plan safe dermal filler procedures using ultrasound guidance	3.1	Conduct a detailed client assessment and ultrasound scan to inform treatment planning
		3.2	Identify pre-existing filler, scar tissue, or anatomical variation using ultrasound
		3.3	Justify the use of ultrasound guidance for the chosen procedure approach

LO4	Administer dermal filler treatments using ultrasound guidance	4.1	Prepare the clinical environment and equipment for ultrasound-guided injections
		4.2	Demonstrate correct use and positioning of the ultrasound probe, scanning techniques, and gel application
		4.3	Perform dermal filler injections using ultrasound to guide cannula or needle placement
		4.4	Evaluate tissue response intra-procedurally and adjust technique as needed
LO5	Understand the management of complications using ultrasound guidance	5.1	Identify filler-related complications such as vascular occlusion and nodules on ultrasound
		5.2	Describe protocols for ultrasound-guided complication management (e.g., hyaluronidase administration)
		5.3	Explain the legal, ethical, and professional responsibilities in using ultrasound in advanced aesthetic procedures

## Indicative Content

### Principles of Diagnostic Ultrasound

- basic physics of ultrasound: frequency, wavelength, acoustic impedance
- ultrasound modes: B-mode, Doppler, colour Doppler
- understanding artefacts and limitations in aesthetic practice
- device operation, probe types, and settings

### Advanced Facial Anatomy and Sonography

- anatomy of the face with focus on vascular structures and danger zones
- tissue layers and their sonographic appearance
- identifying key landmarks using ultrasound
- variations in anatomy and implications for filler injection

### Treatment Planning with Ultrasound

- pre-treatment scanning protocols
- identifying previous filler and foreign bodies
- mapping vasculature to avoid complications
- ultrasound-led decision making and client consent

### Ultrasound-Guided Injection Technique

- sterile technique and ultrasound probe hygiene
- in-plane vs out-of-plane guidance techniques
- using ultrasound to guide needle or cannula safely
- monitoring filler placement and tissue response in real time

## Treatment Areas

- midface - nasolabial lines, zygomatic, cheek augmentation
- lower face and neck - marionette lines, peri oral lines, lip line and lip volumisation, chin, jawline contouring

## Complication Management

- ultrasound diagnosis of vascular occlusion and nodules
- ultrasound-guided administration of hyaluronidase
- protocols for managing adverse events
- professional responsibilities and legal considerations

## Glossary

**Artefacts:** misleading echoes or distortions on ultrasound images due to physics or technical limitations

**B-Mode Imaging:** brightness mode imaging; the standard mode used for visualising soft tissues in 2D grayscale

**Cannula:** a blunt-tipped instrument used for injecting fillers with reduced vascular risk

**Doppler Ultrasound:** technique that evaluates blood flow and can help identify vascular structures

**Hyaluronidase:** an enzyme used to dissolve hyaluronic acid fillers in cases of overcorrection or complications

**In-Plane Technique:** ultrasound-guided injection technique where the needle is aligned with the ultrasound beam and fully visible

**Out-of-Plane Technique:** technique where the needle intersects the ultrasound beam perpendicularly, often showing a cross-sectional dot

**Sonography:** the practice of using ultrasound to examine anatomical structures

**Ultrasound (US):** a diagnostic imaging technique using high-frequency sound waves to visualise structures beneath the skin

**Vascular Occlusion:** blockage of a blood vessel, a serious complication in dermal filler procedures

## Suggested Resources

- Aging and Aging-Related Diseases: Mechanisms and Interventions: 1086 (Advances in Experimental Medicine and Biology, 1086) 19 Jan. 2019 by Zhao Wang
- Botulinum Toxins in Clinical Aesthetic Practice 3E, Volume Two: Functional Anatomy and Injection Techniques: 2 (Series in Cosmetic and Laser Therapy) 22 Feb. 2018 by Anthony V Benedetto
- Illustrated Guide to Aesthetic Botulinum Toxin Injections (Aesthetic Methods for Skin Rejuvenation) 1 Nov. 2013 by Michael Kane and Gerhard Sattler
- Dermal Fillers: Facial Anatomy and Injection Techniques 10 Jun. 2020 by André Vieira Braz and Thais Harumi Sakuma
- A Practical Guide to Dermal Filler Procedures 1 Dec. 2011 by Rebecca Small and Dalano Hoang
- Essentials for Aesthetic Dermatology in Ethnic Skin: Practice and Procedure 29 May 2023 by Mukta Sachdev and Niti Khunger
- Guide to Minimally Invasive Aesthetic Procedures - 29 Oct 2020 by M. Laurin Council
- The Oxford Handbook of Aesthetics (Oxford Handbooks) – 27 Jan. 2005 by Jerrold Levinson
- Botulinum Toxin in Aesthetic Medicine - 25 Jun. 2007 by Mauricio de Maio, Berthold Rzany
- Aesthetic Procedures: Nurse Practitioner's Guide to Cosmetic Dermatology: Nurses Guide to Cosmetic Dermatology – 5 Oct. 2019 by Beth Haney
- Injectable Fillers in Aesthetic Medicine – 23 Aug. 2016 by Mauricio de Maio, Berthold Rzany
- Facial Danger Zones: Avoiding Nerve Injury in Facial Plastic Surgery Hardcover – 1 Sept. 1994 by Brooke R. Dr. Seckel
- Facial Danger Zones: Staying safe with surgery, fillers, and non-invasive devices – Illustrated, 15 Nov. 2019 by Rod Rohrich
- Illustrated Guide to Injectable Fillers: Basics, Indications, Uses (Aesthetic Methods for Skin Rejuvenation) – 28 Mar. 2016 by Gerhard Sattler and Uliana Gout
- Essentials of Medical Aesthetics: Clinical and Scientific Skin Care & Rejuvenation – 22 Nov. 2011 by Dr Honardoust
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## Assessment Guidance

All assessment of occupational competence will be conducted in a realistic work i.e., salon or clinic environment. Simulation is not allowed. Learners' competence will be assessed using methods that are appropriate for the assessment of skills, knowledge and understanding.

Assessment observations of **practical performance** will be recorded and will confirm that **all** the competence-based assessment criteria have been met. Observation records may include oral questioning and learner responses. Observations will be signed and dated by the learner and assessor and recorded on the unit assessment checklist. Supporting evidence of learner competency e.g., client case studies/before and after procedure photographs, tasks, assignments etc. should be referenced and retained in learners' portfolios of evidence.

Holistic assessment is encouraged, and one piece of evidence may be used to meet the requirements of more than one learning outcome/unit or assessment criterion.

For the assessment of knowledge and understanding criteria, learners are required to provide oral or written responses to questions, tasks and assignments. Questions, tasks and assignments provided by Qualifi are listed below.

### Written Assessments and Tasks:

The qualification/s overall are graded: Pass/Fail

MCQs and SAQs are graded: <64% = Fail >65% = Pass

Unit % will be based on the mark achieved for the summative SAQ assessment.

### All assessments – formative and summative must be completed.

(Unless stated otherwise, all assessments are summative)

### Assessments:

- **Unit AP709 Clinical Aesthetic Procedures: Poly-L-Lactic Acid (PLLA) Dermal Fillers**
  - LO1 – LO5 skills will be assessed through observations to cover the range in the indicative content:
    - 3** x formative PLLA Dermal Filler procedures
    - 3** x summative PLLA Dermal Filler procedures
    - Oral questions
  - LO1 – LO5 knowledge and understanding will be assessed through
    - 1 x SAQ – short answer questions
  
- **Unit AP710: Clinical Aesthetic Procedures: Ultrasound-Guided Dermal Fillers**
  - LO1 – LO5 skills will be assessed through observations to cover the range in the indicative content:

- 3 x formative Ultrasound-Guided Dermal Filler procedures
- 3 x summative Ultrasound-Guided Dermal Filler procedures
- Oral questions
- LO1 – LO5 knowledge and understanding will be assessed through
  - 1 x SAQ – short answer questions

## Special Considerations and Reasonable Adjustments

This qualification and its assessments have been designed to best support accessibility and inclusion for all learners. In the design and development of qualifications and assessment Qualifi complies with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and the appropriate Ofqual general conditions of regulation. In some instances individuals will have diverse learning needs and need reasonable adjustments to be able fully participate in the qualification and have fair access to assessment. Reasonable adjustments, including additional time or alternative evidence formats, are intended to enable learners with individual needs to demonstrate their skills and knowledge without changing the demands of the assessment. Centres are responsible for making sure that learners can access the requirements of the qualification at the start of a programme of learning.

Special consideration can be given after an assessment has taken place for learners who have been affected by adverse circumstances, such as illness. Special considerations can be in relation to the amount of time given for evidence to be provided or the format of the assessment as long as this is equally valid. However, centres must not agree to the use of alternative forms of evidence to those stipulated in a unit, or to the omission of any assessment criteria when judging attainment.

For further details please see QUALIFI's *Reasonable Adjustment and Special Consideration Policy* and *Access to Fair Assessment Policy and Procedure*.

## Malpractice and Maladministration

Centre or learner malpractice undermines the integrity and validity of assessment and/or the certification of qualifications and can arise or be suspected in relation to any unit or type of assessment within the qualification.

Centres are required to take steps to prevent malpractice and to investigate instances of suspected malpractice. Centres will investigate the allegation in compliance with their own published and QUALIFI approved policy and procedures.

Incidents of maladministration, unintentional errors in the delivery or assessment of QUALIFI qualifications that may affect the assessment of learners, should also be reported in the same way.

QUALIFI may conduct an investigation if we believe that internal assessment and/or internal quality assurance is not being carried out in line with our policies. QUALIFI reserves the right to withhold the issuing of results and/or certificates while an investigation is in progress.

For further details regarding malpractice and how to report suspected malpractice please see QUALIF's *Malpractice and Maladministration Policy and Plagiarism, Collusion and Cheating Policy*.

Where centres have concerns about learner use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) please refer to the *QUALIFI Guidance statement to centres on the risk of AI*.

## Contact Details

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