



The Medical and Dental Defence Union of Scotland (MDDUS)

Membership survey October 2024: cosmetic treatment results

MDDUS conducted a survey of our membership of doctors and dentists in October 2024 to find out more about the issues affecting their practice. Data were collected and analysed by an external researcher, Survation.

The survey contained a section which asked medical professionals about their experiences treating patients who had been injured by unregulated cosmetic procedures.

The total number of respondents working in the medical field was 1855. Of this, 551 reported treating patients who needed care after complications from unregulated cosmetic procedures such as botox, liposuction and dermal fillers.

Table_Q54. Have you treated patients who have needed care after complications from unregulated cosmetic procedures (e.g. boto x, liposuction, and dermal fillers)?												
BASE: Respondents in the medical field												
	Country - medical							General Practice role				
	Total	Scotland	England	Northern Ireland	Wales	Channel Islands	Isle of Man	General Practitioner Registrar/Trainee	General Practitioner (employed)	General Practitioner (Partner)	General Practitioner (Locum)	Nurse (GP)
	[A]	[N]	[O]	[P]	[Q]	[R]	[S]	[AE]	[AF]	[AG]	[AH]	[AI]
Base(Unweighted)	1855	329	1407	49	60	4	6	136	209	252	93	45
I have	551	114	393	18	23	2	1	31	110	132	49	19
	30%	35%	28%	37%	38%	50%	17%	23%	53%	52%	53%	42%
I have not	1246	211	961	31	36	2	5	97	93	118	39	24
	67%	64%	68%	63%	60%	50%	83%	71%	44%	47%	42%	53%
Don't know	58	4	53	0	1	0	0	8	6	2	5	2
	3%	1%	4%	-	2%	-	-	6%	3%	1%	5%	4%
Total	1855	329	1407	49	60	4	6	136	209	252	93	45
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table_Q66. The number of patients each year seeking care after complications in unregulated cosmetic treatments has...												
BASE: Respondents in the medical field who have treated complications from unregulated cosmetic procedure												
	Country - medical							General Practice role				
	Total	Scotland	England	Northern Ireland	Wales	Channel Islands	Isle of Man	General Practitioner Registrar/Trainee	General Practitioner (employed)	General Practitioner (Partner)	General Practitioner (Locum)	Nurse (GP)
	[A]	[N]	[O]	[P]	[Q]	[R]	[S]	[AE]	[AF]	[AG]	[AH]	[AI]
Base(Unweighted)	551	114	393	18	23	2	1	31	110	132	49	19
Increased a lot	207	51	139	12	5	0	0	9	47	50	16	7
	38%	45%	35%	67%	22%	-	-	29%	43%	38%	33%	37%
Increased a little	222	47	156	4	12	2	1	12	40	62	23	7
	40%	41%	40%	22%	52%	100%	100%	39%	36%	47%	47%	37%
Remained the same	43	5	35	1	2	0	0	1	10	10	4	3
	8%	4%	9%	6%	9%	-	-	3%	9%	8%	8%	16%
Decreased a lot	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
	0	-	1%	-	-	-	-	3%	-	-	-	-
Decreased a little	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Don't know	77	11	61	1	4	0	0	8	13	10	6	2
	14%	10%	16%	6%	17%	-	-	26%	12%	8%	12%	11%
NET: Increased (A lot+A little)	429	98	295	16	17	2	1	21	87	112	39	14
	78%	86%	75%	89%	74%	100%	100%	68%	79%	85%	80%	74%
NET: Decreased (A lot+A little)	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
	0	-	1%	-	-	-	-	3%	-	-	-	-
Total	551	114	393	18	23	2	1	31	110	132	49	19
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table_Q67. What was the age of the youngest patient you treated after complications from unregulated cosmetic procedures?												
BASE: Respondents in the medical field who have treated complications from unregulated cosmetic procedure												
	Total	Country - medical						General Practice role				
		Scot	Eng	N.I.	Wales	Channel Islands	Isle of Man	General Practitioner Registrar/ Trainee	General Practitioner (employed)	General Practitioner (Partner)	General Practitioner (Locum)	Nurse (GP)
Base(Unweighted)	551	114	393	18	23	2	1	31	110	132	49	19
Under 16	8	1	6	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0
	1%	1%	2%	6%	-	-	-	-	2%	1%	2%	-
16 - 20	103	18	80	1	3	1	0	10	23	19	11	0
	19%	16%	20%	6%	13%	50%	-	32%	21%	14%	22%	-
21 - 25	168	38	118	5	7	0	0	11	37	40	13	3
	30%	33%	30%	28%	30%	-	-	35%	34%	30%	27%	16%
26 - 30	95	13	72	4	5	1	0	3	14	24	8	10
	17%	11%	18%	22%	22%	50%	-	10%	13%	18%	16%	53%
31 - 35	54	11	37	2	3	0	1	3	12	15	7	0
	10%	10%	9%	11%	13%	-	100%	10%	11%	11%	14%	-
36 - 40	32	6	20	3	3	0	0	1	5	5	2	2
	6%	5%	5%	17%	13%	-	-	3%	5%	4%	4%	11%
41 - 45	15	3	11	0	1	0	0	1	2	4	0	2
	3%	3%	3%	-	4%	-	-	3%	2%	3%	-	11%
46 - 50	6	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	1	0
	1%	3%	1%	-	-	-	-	-	1%	3%	2%	-
51 - 55	6	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
	1%	1%	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	1%	2%	5%
Over 55	5	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0
	1%	1%	1%	-	4%	-	-	-	1%	2%	-	-
Don't know	59	19	38	2	0	0	0	2	13	17	5	1
	11%	17%	10%	11%	-	-	-	6%	12%	13%	10%	5%
Total	551	114	393	18	23	2	1	31	110	132	49	19
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table_Q68_1. Unknown ingredients used in procedures (e.g. counterfeit botox or filler) - When treating patients who have been injured by unregulated cosmetic procedures, what are the main barriers to providing care? Rank the three that concern you the most, with the top being the most concerning.												
BASE: Respondents in the medical field who have treated complications from unregulated cosmetic procedure												
		Country - medical						General Practice role				
	Total	Scotland	England	Northern Ireland	Wales	Channel Islands	Isle of Man	General Practitioner Registrar/Trainee	General Practitioner (employed)	General Practitioner (Partner)	General Practitioner (Locum)	Nurse (GP)
	[A]	[N]	[O]	[P]	[Q]	[R]	[S]	[AE]	[AF]	[AG]	[AH]	[AI]
Base(Unweighted)	551	114	393	18	23	2	1	31	110	132	49	19
Rank 1	76	26	46	1	2	1	0	5	15	21	8	0
	14%	23%	12%	6%	9%	50%	-	16%	14%	16%	16%	-
Rank 2	104	16	78	3	6	0	1	8	17	27	13	4
	19%	14%	20%	17%	26%	-	100%	26%	15%	20%	27%	21%
Rank 3	90	14	71	2	3	0	0	4	16	22	8	5
	16%	12%	18%	11%	13%	-	-	13%	15%	17%	16%	26%

Table_Q68_2. Complications from unqualified practitioners performing surgical procedures - When treating patients who have been injured by unregulated cosmetic procedures, what are the main barriers to providing care? Rank the three that concern you the most, with the top being the most concerning.

BASE: Respondents in the medical field who have treated complications from unregulated cosmetic procedure

		Country - medical						General Practice role				
	Total	Scotland	England	Northern Ireland	Wales	Channel Islands	Isle of Man	General Practitioner Registrar/Trainee	General Practitioner (employed)	General Practitioner (Partner)	General Practitioner (Locum)	Nurse (GP)
	[A]	[N]	[O]	[P]	[Q]	[R]	[S]	[AE]	[AF]	[AG]	[AH]	[AI]
Base(Unweighted)	551	114	393	18	23	2	1	31	110	132	49	19
Rank 1	133	26	95	4	8	0	0	6	27	32	11	4
	24%	23%	24%	22%	35%	-	-	19%	25%	24%	22%	21%
Rank 2	111	20	82	1	6	2	0	7	23	21	14	7
	20%	18%	21%	6%	26%	100%	-	23%	21%	16%	29%	37%
Rank 3	76	11	58	4	2	0	1	3	23	14	3	1
	14%	10%	15%	22%	9%	-	100%	10%	21%	11%	6%	5%

Table_Q68_3. Patients being unable to explain the procedure they underwent - When treating patients who have been injured by unregulated cosmetic procedures, what are the main barriers to providing care? Rank the three that concern you the most, with the top being the most concerning.

BASE: Respondents in the medical field who have treated complications from unregulated cosmetic procedure

		Country - medical						General Practice role				
	Total	Scotland	England	Northern Ireland	Wales	Channel Islands	Isle of Man	General Practitioner Registrar/Trainee	General Practitioner (employed)	General Practitioner (Partner)	General Practitioner (Locum)	Nurse (GP)
	[A]	[N]	[O]	[P]	[Q]	[R]	[S]	[AE]	[AF]	[AG]	[AH]	[AI]
Base(Unweighted)	551	114	393	18	23	2	1	31	110	132	49	19
Rank 1	98	22	67	4	5	0	0	5	17	26	11	4
	18%	19%	17%	22%	22%	-	-	16%	15%	20%	22%	21%
Rank 2	99	21	70	4	4	0	0	4	20	20	8	1
	18%	18%	18%	22%	17%	-	-	13%	18%	15%	16%	5%
Rank 3	107	24	73	6	4	0	0	7	19	29	11	4
	19%	21%	19%	33%	17%	-	-	23%	17%	22%	22%	21%

Table_Q68_4. Infection from poor hygienic practises - When treating patients who have been injured by unregulated cosmetic procedures, what are the main barriers to providing care? Rank the three that concern you the most, with the top being the most concerning.

BASE: Respondents in the medical field who have treated complications from unregulated cosmetic procedure

	Country - medical							General Practice role				
	Total	Scotland	England	Northern Ireland	Wales	Channel Islands	Isle of Man	General Practitioner Registrar/Trainee	General Practitioner (employed)	General Practitioner (Partner)	General Practitioner (Locum)	Nurse (GP)
	[A]	[N]	[O]	[P]	[Q]	[R]	[S]	[AE]	[AF]	[AG]	[AH]	[AI]
Base(Unweighted)	551	114	393	18	23	2	1	31	110	132	49	19
Rank 1	83	14	61	3	4	1	0	3	10	18	3	4
	15%	12%	16%	17%	17%	50%	-	10%	9%	14%	6%	21%
Rank 2	84	22	59	1	2	0	0	3	17	21	3	7
	15%	19%	15%	6%	9%	-	-	10%	15%	16%	6%	37%
Rank 3	84	15	62	2	5	0	0	5	19	16	10	4
	15%	13%	16%	11%	22%	-	-	16%	17%	12%	20%	21%

Table_Q68_5. Online misinformation about procedures and healing - When treating patients who have been injured by unregulated cosmetic procedures, what are the main barriers to providing care? Rank the three that concern you the most, with the top being the most concerning.

BASE: Respondents in the medical field who have treated complications from unregulated cosmetic procedure

		Country - medical						General Practice role				
	Total	Scotland	England	Northern Ireland	Wales	Channel Islands	Isle of Man	General Practitioner Registrar/Trainee	General Practitioner (employed)	General Practitioner (Partner)	General Practitioner (Locum)	Nurse (GP)
	[A]	[N]	[O]	[P]	[Q]	[R]	[S]	[AE]	[AF]	[AG]	[AH]	[AI]
Base(Unweighted)	551	114	393	18	23	2	1	31	110	132	49	19
Rank 1	49	7	41	0	1	0	0	4	6	8	5	4
	9%	6%	10%	-	4%	-	-	13%	5%	6%	10%	21%
Rank 2	67	13	46	7	1	0	0	3	18	12	3	0
	12%	11%	12%	39%	4%	-	-	10%	16%	9%	6%	-
Rank 3	98	31	61	2	3	1	0	8	11	27	8	2
	18%	27%	16%	11%	13%	50%	-	26%	10%	20%	16%	11%

Table_Q68_6. Patients presenting with injuries you haven't encountered before - When treating patients who have been injured by unregulated cosmetic procedures, what are the main barriers to providing care? Rank the three that concern you the most, with the top being the most concerning.

BASE: Respondents in the medical field who have treated complications from unregulated cosmetic procedure

		Country - medical						General Practice role				
	Total	Scotland	England	Northern Ireland	Wales	Channel Islands	Isle of Man	General Practitioner Registrar/Trainee	General Practitioner (employed)	General Practitioner (Partner)	General Practitioner (Locum)	Nurse (GP)
	[A]	[N]	[O]	[P]	[Q]	[R]	[S]	[AE]	[AF]	[AG]	[AH]	[AI]
Base(Unweighted)	551	114	393	18	23	2	1	31	110	132	49	19
Rank 1	95	14	71	6	3	0	1	8	28	24	10	2
	17%	12%	18%	33%	13%	-	100%	26%	25%	18%	20%	11%
Rank 2	73	17	50	2	4	0	0	6	13	29	8	0
	13%	15%	13%	11%	17%	-	-	19%	12%	22%	16%	-
Rank 3	72	17	49	1	4	1	0	3	14	21	8	2
	13%	15%	12%	6%	17%	50%	-	10%	13%	16%	16%	11%

Table_Q68_7. Other - When treating patients who have been injured by unregulated cosmetic procedures, what are the main barriers to providing care? Rank the three that concern you the most, with the top being the most concerning.

BASE: Respondents in the medical field who have treated complications from unregulated cosmetic procedure

	Country - medical							General Practice role				
	Total	Scotland	England	Northern Ireland	Wales	Channel Islands	Isle of Man	General Practitioner Registrar/Trainee	General Practitioner (employed)	General Practitioner (Partner)	General Practitioner (Locum)	Nurse (GP)
	[A]	[N]	[O]	[P]	[Q]	[R]	[S]	[AE]	[AF]	[AG]	[AH]	[AI]
Base(Unweighted)	551	114	393	18	23	2	1	31	110	132	49	19
Rank 1	17	5	12	0	0	0	0	0	7	3	1	1
	3%	4%	3%	-	-	-	-	-	6%	2%	2%	5%
Rank 2	13	5	8	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0
	2%	4%	2%	-	-	-	-	-	2%	2%	-	-
Rank 3	24	2	19	1	2	0	0	1	8	3	1	1
	4%	2%	5%	6%	9%	-	-	3%	7%	2%	2%	5%

Table_Q68_Summary. When treating patients who have been injured by unregulated cosmetic procedures, what are the main barriers to providing care? Rank the three that concern you the most, with the top being the most concerning.							
	Unknown ingredients used in procedures (e.g. counterfeit botox or filler)	Complications from unqualified practitioners performing surgical procedures	Patients being unable to explain the procedure they underwent	Infection from poor hygienic practises	Online misinformation about procedures and healing	Patients presenting with injuries you haven't encountered before	Other
Base(Unweighted)	551	551	551	551	551	551	551
Rank 1	76	133	98	83	49	95	17
	14%	24%	18%	15%	9%	17%	3%
Rank 2	104	111	99	84	67	73	13
	19%	20%	18%	15%	12%	13%	2%
Rank 3	90	76	107	84	98	72	24
	16%	14%	19%	15%	18%	13%	4%