

IPHM Beauty Accreditation

What Your Course Needs to Qualify

IPHM accredits beauty and aesthetics training providers across all levels, from standard beauty treatments through to advanced aesthetics and medical aesthetics. The requirements for your course depend on the type of treatments it covers.

This guide explains what each course type needs to include. Read the section that matches your course and make sure your manual covers everything listed before you apply.

Before you apply

- Your course manual is reviewed against the requirements below. Make sure it covers everything for your tier before submitting.
- Your trainer qualifications are submitted separately. They do not need to be inside the manual.
- If your course covers more than one tier, it must meet the requirements of the highest tier that applies.
- The minimum pass mark for accreditation is 85%. Each course is assessed individually.

Tier 1 Standard Beauty Treatments

Suitable for all beauty practitioners

What this covers	Facials, waxing, manicure, pedicure, nail extensions, lash and brow treatments, lash lift, brow lamination, tinting, threading, sugaring, spray tanning, make-up artistry, body wraps, basic massage.
Your trainer qualification	Level 3 beauty therapy qualification or equivalent, with relevant experience in the treatments being taught. Submitted separately with your application.
Your manual must include	• A full step-by-step treatment protocol • Contraindications specific to the treatment, with named conditions listed • A client consultation and consent process • Hygiene and infection control specific to the treatment — not just general statements • Contra-actions and what to do if something goes wrong during or after treatment • Aftercare guidance • A scope of practice statement explaining the limits of the treatment

	• A prerequisite statement telling students what experience they need before taking the course
Your course must include	• A written exam of at least 20 questions with a minimum 80% pass rate • At least 5 case studies, with you reviewing at least one before awarding the qualification

Tier 2 Advanced Aesthetics — Non-Medical

For trained practitioners with Level 3 beauty qualification

Under the Scottish Non-Surgical Procedures Act 2026 (expected in force September 2027), these treatments are Group 1 procedures. Practitioners will need to be trained, licensed, and operating from licensed premises. Your course manual should reflect this regulatory environment.

What this covers	Microneedling, dermaplaning, superficial chemical peels, IPL, laser hair removal, laser skin treatments, electrolysis, ultrasound cavitation, radiofrequency, cryotherapy, HIFU, semi-permanent makeup, microblading, cosmetic tattooing.
Your trainer qualification	Level 2 and Level 3 beauty therapy qualification, plus a Level 4 Diploma in Advanced Aesthetics relevant to the treatments taught. For laser and IPL: Core of Knowledge laser safety qualification. For semi-permanent makeup and microblading: a specialist qualification in the technique. Submitted separately with your application.
Your manual must include	• A full step-by-step treatment protocol including equipment set-up and settings • Clinically specific contraindications: named conditions and named medications including blood thinners, retinoids, isotretinoin, immunosuppressants, and photosensitising drugs • Anatomy and physiology relevant to the treatment — for example, skin layers for microneedling and peels; hair follicle anatomy for laser; facial anatomy for semi-permanent makeup • Clinical hygiene and infection control: single-use equipment requirements, sharps disposal where applicable, cross-contamination prevention, and PPE • Contra-actions and adverse reactions: what infection, burns, allergic reaction, hyperpigmentation, and scarring look like — and exactly what to do • Client consultation, skin assessment, and patch testing requirements including timing • Detailed aftercare: what to avoid, expected healing, signs of concern, when to refer to a GP • A statement directing learners to check insurance requirements before practicing

	• A clear statement that these treatments must not be performed on anyone under 18 • A prerequisite statement confirming students must hold a Level 3 beauty qualification before taking the course
Your course must include	• A written exam of at least 20 questions with a minimum 80% pass rate • At least 5 case studies, with you reviewing at least one before awarding the qualification • A reference to practical or supervised assessment — written exam alone is not sufficient for hands-on clinical skills

Tier 3 Medical Aesthetics — Injectables

For registered healthcare professionals and supervised non-medical practitioners

Under the Scottish Non-Surgical Procedures Act 2026, these are Group 2 procedures. Non-medical practitioners may be trained in these treatments but must work under the supervision of a named regulated healthcare professional in an appropriate setting. Your course must make this clear.

What this covers	Dermal fillers, anti-wrinkle injections, Botox, lip fillers, skin boosters, mesotherapy, PRP preparation, IV vitamin therapy, fat dissolving injections.
Your trainer qualification	You must be a registered healthcare professional — doctor, dentist, nurse, or pharmacist with prescribing rights — and hold an Ofqual-regulated Level 7 Diploma in Clinical Aesthetic Injectable Therapies from a recognised awarding body such as OTHM, VTCT, or ProQual. JCCP approval is a strong positive indicator. RPL routes resulting in the same Level 7 are accepted. CPD certificates, short foundation courses, and weekend courses are not equivalent regardless of how they are described. You must be registered with the GMC, GDC, NMC, or GPhC. IPHM transitional arrangement: if you do not yet hold a Level 7, you may still apply provided you hold valid healthcare professional registration and submit a signed written commitment to achieve your Level 7 by September 2027. This transitional arrangement applies to practitioners only — training providers must already hold a Level 7 before teaching these treatments. Submitted separately with your application.
Your manual must include	• Everything in Tier 2, plus: • Facial anatomy in clinical depth: nerves, blood vessels, danger zones, and injection planes • Contraindications specific to injectables: autoimmune conditions, pregnancy, breastfeeding, blood disorders, active skin infection at the treatment site

	• Complications management: what vascular occlusion, necrosis, blindness, infection, and product migration look like, how to recognise them, and exact emergency response steps • Hyaluronidase: what it is, when to use it, and how to administer it (required for all dermal filler courses) • Informed consent in depth: what the client must understand before treatment, cooling off periods, and photographic consent • A clear statement that prescription-only medicines require a prescriber and that non-medical practitioners must work under supervision of a regulated healthcare professional • A clear statement that these treatments must not be performed on anyone under 18 under any circumstances • Emergency protocols: what to do if a client has a serious adverse reaction, including when to call 999 • A prerequisite statement that this course is for registered healthcare professionals, or non-medical practitioners who will work under the supervision of a named registered healthcare professional
Your course must include	• A written exam of at least 20 questions with a minimum 80% pass rate • At least 5 case studies, with you reviewing at least one before awarding the qualification • A reference to practical or supervised assessment

Treatments outside IPHM accreditation scope

Some treatments fall outside what IPHM can accredit. These include Brazilian Butt Lifts, thread lifts, surgical fat removal, and any procedure that requires CQC registration in England or Healthcare Improvement Scotland registration in Scotland.

Under the Scottish Non-Surgical Procedures Act 2026, these procedures are restricted to regulated healthcare professionals in regulated clinical settings. If you are unsure whether your course falls into this category, please contact us before applying.

Ready to apply or have a question?

Get in touch with our team and we will be happy to help.

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