

# Tailored Training in Plastic Surgery Allows Skin Cancer Service to Improve in Lanarkshire

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## Introduction

An outreach plastic surgical service from GGC to NHS Lanarkshire was no longer providing enough capacity for skin cancer referrals and the wait times to first clinic appointment and for surgery were several months long and growing.

Ms Rashid one of our experienced general surgical speciality doctors was interested in learning to perform more complex skin cancer surgery to be able to help deliver the service.



## Method

Having been awarded SAS development funding Ms Rashid was able to spend 4 sessions per week over the period of a year working closely with consultant dermatology and plastic surgical colleagues receiving tailored training in the management of skin cancer and learning to perform skin cancer surgery such as flaps and grafts.

To concentrate experience she worked between 4 hospitals in 2 Health Boards.



## Results

Ms Rashid is now able to make a significant contribution to the skin cancer service and independently provides the majority of the service in University Hospital Hairmyres.

She has her own clinical caseload seeing 14 new patients and 20 return patients each week while supervising the dressings clinic.

She performs two one stop skin cancer diagnostic and treatment clinics where 3-6 patients are able to have both their assessment and treatment during the same visit which is particularly valued by elderly patients.

She also performs and teaches our advanced nurse practitioners during planned surgical lists twice per week.

## Conclusion

This training has allowed us to be able to see all new patient referrals to plastics within 2 weeks and no patient waits longer than 2 weeks for surgery.

Patients are able to have their treatment closer to home and Ms Rashid is enjoying the challenge and variety of having developed her clinical practice.