



**Association of Breast Surgery**  
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## **ABS Clinical Practice and Standards Committee**

### **Terms of Reference**

#### **A. Overall purpose**

In accordance with the articles of the Association of Breast Surgery, the remit of the Clinical Practice and Standards Committee is to advance the practice of breast surgery for the benefit of the public by seeking that a national standard of care is delivered across the whole UK and aiming to improve the performance of surgical aspects of breast care for all service users.

#### **B. Main responsibilities and duties**

To recommend and promote clinical and professional standards for breast surgery both in the NHS and independent sectors

To develop clinical guidelines for breast surgery

When appropriate to collaborate with other disciplines and organisations to develop clinical guidelines for breast multidisciplinary teams

Review and, where appropriate, recommend clinical guidelines developed by other groups and organisations

To oversee and promote the Association of Breast Surgery's interest in national audits of breast practice and foster participation in them by ABS members

To advise the Executive Board on issues and developments relating to clinical governance, risk management and professional standards on behalf of the membership

To provide representation to other groups, committees, organisations and external bodies who seek representation from the Association of Breast Surgery

Through the regionally elected representatives to act as a conduit for the membership of the Association of Breast Surgery to raise clinical and professional issues that require discussion at national level

Through the Mammary Fold representative to act as a conduit for breast surgical trainees to raise clinical and professional issues that require discussion at national level.

Through the ABS Nurse trustee to act as a conduit for specialist breast care nurses/ advanced practitioners to raise clinical and professional issues that require discussion at national level.

Rapidly disseminate important information about issues related to professional and clinical practice through the network of regional representatives and the monthly bulletin.

### **C. Membership of the Committee**

The Committee should be composed of:

Chairperson  
ABS President  
ABS Trustees  
Elected ABS regional and national representatives  
ABS Nurse Trustee  
Mammary Fold Representative  
Chair of ABS / NHSBSP Screening Committee  
Chair of the NHS BSP & ABS Audit  
Sloane Project Representative  
Chair of the National Casemix Office Breast Expert Working Group  
BAPRAS Representative  
Society of Irish Breast Surgeons Representative  
GIRFT Representative

The incoming Chair of the committee may be elected up to 12 months in advance to facilitate a full handover with the outgoing Chair.

The Committee will have the power to co-opt additional members as appropriate.

### **D. Frequency of Meetings**

The committee shall meet every 4 times per year (twice in person and twice virtually). Additional meetings may be arranged as required at the discretion of the chair.

**Updated October 2022**