

THE CONSULTANT
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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Deposits

As you're very likely aware, we are incredibly busy as a clinic group. We know a lot of clinics “say” this, but hand on heart, we are genuinely at capacity (and you'll know this if you've tried to book in!). It's actually a little cray. We've been fully booked for every clinic we have run, for the best part of a decade now (long may it continue), regardless of location!

Which frustratingly, means that there is often a short wait to get in. We have 100K patients and only 10 doctors because we're really fussy whom we have working for us. If you're not serious about the appointment for a consultation, allow another patient to have the slot they crave and indeed the deposit helps with this process. If patients aren't sure whether they will actually attend or what they want, they tend not to pay the deposit and book in. This makes it easier for those whom are serious about it, to find a slot appropriate to their time scale. Which makes for a smoother service for everyone.

Let's talk deposits.

First of all, why do we take them?

You'll also be aware, that we work from high end buildings and locations. It's part of the reason patients like visiting us! Harley Street in London, Jumeirah Beach in Dubai, and Beverly Hills in Los Angeles are just 3 of our clinic locations. These places are of course, expensive to use and often cost us £5k a

day. Alas, we still need to pay for the rent or mortgage, as well as the salaries of our staff and doctors, whether you attend or not. The deposit merely covers this and the cost of being open, and we make no profit from this at all. It allows us to practice from the beautiful locations we do, and add to the experience of the clinic itself. The alternative would be not to charge for a consultation fee and deposit, but **INSTEAD** add a third on to the price of each treatment. It may also mean practicing from less desirable areas. Focus groups we have run and used to audit in order to further the clinic's experience, would indicate that this is a last resort.

As a practice, we decided this wasn't entirely fair and that each patient should take responsibility for their turning up on time and risk deposit loss, rather than the entire patient base bearing the brunt of this. We appreciate that it might not be your fault that you cannot attend; you've lost your job, you don't feel well, you've found out you're pregnant, your car has broken down, or you've just plain changed your mind. No one pays a deposit and expects that they aren't going to attend, which we understand. **BUT**, that is the whole concept of the "deposit taking" process, in case of such eventualities. If they are refundable, there is little point in them being taken in the first place.

However, regardless of this, these non attendances incur business costs that potentially spiral into tens of thousands of pounds, when you have a large international patient base of over 100,000, high international travel costs and of course the thousands of medical professional hours. We have also usually had to use several of our lovely admin staff to book you in too, answer several questions and send you information packs (such as this one!, before you even arrive at the clinic) and behind the scenes. The deposit will cover this too.

Is the deposit refundable if I want to change or cancel my consultation?

No - the deposit is **STRICTLY NON REFUNDABLE** - **BUT** if you give us **2 weeks notice** prior to your attendance, and the appointment slot is moved to within 2 weeks of the original slot, we will transfer to another date convenient

to you if diary space allows. If we don't have the diary space, then the appointment will not be able to be moved.

If you then have treatment on the day of the consultation, this is then redeemable against your treatment on the day itself. If you book several consultations and therefore pay several different deposits to reserve your slots, these are only redeemable against their **respective** slots.

For example, if you have paid a deposit for a consultation for lip augmentation, another for Botox, and then liquid rhinoplasty, you'll have 3 consultations booked. What if you then only proceeded with the Botox?

The Botox consultation fee and deposit only, will be redeemed against that treatment. You cannot redeem the lips/ nose consultation fees against the Botox in addition. This makes the patient think more carefully about what they really want, rather than book the entire afternoon out to hang with one of the doctors, or the team, they've seen on Instagram. Of course we're being tongue in cheek, but this is an actual occurrence! We love seeing you, but we have a duty to see as many of you as possible and we're well aware of how frustrating it is to have to wait to book in.

Bear in mind, that for whatever reason, no one ever foresees the reason why they can no longer come and again in the interests of fairness, we have to have the same rule for **everyone** without exception. We warn everyone at the time of booking that the deposit is non-refundable and thus whilst disappointing of course, it is fair and ethical. You take on the responsibility of ensuring your attendance or unfortunately be advised that the deposit will be lost, regardless of the reason behind it.

What if I am late?

We understand that sometimes, public transport is horrid. Cars do crazy things. We break a heel off our shoe, or the baby vomits on us just as we're handing them over to the babysitter. We do expect you to leave time for all eventualities though, and again take responsibility for being on time. If you are more than 10

minutes late, we reserve the right to cancel the appointment with a non-refundable deposit.

Let us explain the reasons for this.

We are blessed enough to have patients fly from all over the world to come to see us, and often they have flights to catch after their appointment and connecting travel schedules that aren't flexible. Parents have to leave to pick up their children, or others have meetings booked later on in the day. Being late yourself, often makes them late – and we obviously cannot allow a knock-on effect of several latecomers (meaning that those patients that turned up on time are inconvenienced through no fault of their own). Furthermore, many of the buildings we work from have licensing hours, which means that if everyone is a little later (or one person is significantly late), the last few attending patients won't be able to be seen and/or we will be fined for out of hours working. As such, if you are ten minutes late for an appointment, there will be a surcharge of £50 and we could cancel your appointment altogether, unless we have a last minute cancellation in a different slot, in which case we're happy to fit you in later on.

Is the consultation free?

No. The deposit is actually **for** your consultation fee. We only ever use doctors and dentists to advise you, whom are at the top of their game and usually surgically trained too. You are paying for their expert, qualified and indemnified opinion (in line with Consultant Clinic techniques and protocols developed over years of practice). The deposit will vary according to the clinic you're booking into. Thus far:

London, Birmingham, Belfast and Dublin – as per the website, we charge £80 for each consultation

Greater Manchester and Liverpool - £60 for each consultation

Dubai, Los Angeles & New York - £120 per consultation.

Remember, we are usually flying our UK based doctors to another country for you especially, and it will therefore cost more to fly several hours to California or Dubai, than it will to jump in the car and drive to work down the road, for us all.

December – International rate deposit for each clinic.

We charge high deposit rates in December as we're only open for 2 weeks, and the demand for our services is literally off the scale. (Please bear this in mind and book early if you want to secure a slot). We're simply bursting at the seams, and it's especially important to allow our regulars to be able to book in, as well as those whom are certain they want treatment and/or a consultation. If you aren't sure during these busy periods, then we would advise you book in during off-peak season. It goes without saying that the consultation fees at any cost are always redeemable against respective treatments if performed on the same day.

The rule of thumb for deposits, is that if you aren't sure, or aren't completely on board with all of this that you are reading, then it's best not to book in and think on it some more. No one ever lost anything, by taking more time to make a decision. We're not going anywhere and would far rather you made the right decision, than a rushed one.

**Is it a given, that I will
definitely be able to have
treatment of my choice on the
day?**

It is never assumed that a treatment can be had on the day, as there are hundreds of reasons which may prevent your treatment, (whether it be down to

eg overfilled lips, medication issues, blood supply, nerve supply, scar tissue to the area, certain allergies, anatomical quirks, immunosuppressants, on-going medical conditions, the herpetic virus, and many more). All of these prevent treatment on the day and we cannot cover all possibilities prior to this on an exhaustive list, as after all, it takes a qualified, trained aesthetics doctor face-to-face to fully assess a treatment plan for you, what your options are, if eventually you would like to be left with a result you're expecting and wish for.



THE SINGLE MOST
IMPORTANT SKILL
IS KNOWING WHO
TO TREAT, AND
WHO NOT TO
TREAT.

That being said, we often have to turn people away at consultation, either for an existing medical condition, undisclosed previous information or the presence of previously poorly placed filler from another practice. These can only be assessed on the day, and although less than ideal, it's a part of the process.

Although it sounds preferable to be able to list all potential obstacles on the pre-injection information pack exhaustively, unfortunately it can't, as a broad brush stroke as is not black and white, and not the correct clinical approach. It is at the entire point of a consultation that full suitability is assessed. It's also why at this stage, the medical history and consent form is taken. If we feel you are heavily grieving, knee-jerking into a treatment, or have body dysmorphic tendencies we have a duty of care not to treat you either.

However, in our considerable experience, most patients tell us if they are undergoing other treatments, taking other medications or other potential conflict and double check prior to booking/treatment if it could be an issue. It is your responsibility to let us know of anything you are currently seeing your GP for, aside from contraceptives.

We *can* inject over the filler work of others, provided it is smooth and in the right place. If not, as we cannot determine and guarantee our results , we would need to dissolve first. There is a charge for this.

What if I am getting married or am planning to attend a major event?

Side effects with all procedures will include significant swelling, redness and tenderness in the treated area for up to 14 days.

Some people will experience significant bruising, but this and any other side effects will usually resolve within a 2 week period of time. You may need to take over the counter painkillers to control any pain-related side effects.

For these reasons, The Consultant Clinic will not treat you with this procedure within 8 weeks of any major personal event in your life such as weddings.

What if I suffer from cold sores?

We advise asking your GP for Acyclovir, to help prevent a break out prior to treatment. We give you them to take after treatment too, to help prevent a trigger if it is known to us that you carry the herpes virus. We cannot guarantee against break outs, as every time the skin barrier is breached for a patient carrying the herpes virus, it remains a possibility. However, we do find prescription antivirals are remarkably effective.

Remember just ask!

We do all we can to warn you fairly and allow you to make an informed choice in line with good medical practice guidelines. We can obviously only do so much, in a pack like this, as non medics cannot advise you.

If there is something you're not sure about, we have a fantastic admin team, who will answer you and if they can't, will refer to a manager or doctor. On occasion, and if necessary, our doctors will contact you themselves to ensure you have the best experience possible.

By booking in with us, it is considered that you agree with and understand all of the above.

***** If paying via Amex (American Express Card) – please ensure you bring an alternative payment method as backup as Amex works very intermittently *****