

New Publication for Health and Social Care Professionals

‘Face Equality for Patients with Disfiguring Conditions How health and social care professionals can support and empower’



This free advisory booklet is written by the clinically-qualified team at *Changing Faces* and its expert advisers. It aims to inform health and social care professionals about how to support and empower patients with disfiguring conditions. This booklet can be used to increase professionals' understanding of some of the underlying emotional processes related to disfigurements. It offers clear and practical advice on how to manage those successfully, as professionals or policy-makers, with help from *Changing Faces* if needed.

There are 1.3m people in the UK with significant disfigurements to their face and/or body. Many conditions can affect the appearance or functioning of a person's face or body whatever their ethnic origin – and these can occur at all ages. Common causes are:

- birthmarks, cleft lip/palates and other congenital conditions
- scarring from accidents burns or road traffic accidents
- the effects of surgery from skin or head and neck cancers
- facial paralysis from stroke or Bell's Palsy
- skin conditions like psoriasis, vitiligo, eczema and acne
- loss of an eye or other eye conditions.

From research findings and *Changing Faces*' experience over the last 17 years, it is clear that patients with disfiguring conditions, could benefit from psycho-social support during and after physical treatment – especially in being prepared for living in a culture which is uncertain or negative about people with disfigurements. This booklet covers:

1. **The psycho-social impact of living with a disfigurement in today's culture**
2. **Suggestions for how to help patients with disfiguring conditions effectively**
3. **A toolkit and how *Changing Faces* can support you**

Face Equality for Patients with Disfiguring Conditions is the lead booklet in our series for professionals, complemented by shorter specialty guides such as dermatology and plastic surgery.

**Please call *Changing Faces* on 0845 4500 275 to order your free copies.
Please note that we do ask for a contribution to postage and packing costs.
Call Gemma Borwick, Health Training Adviser for further information.**