

ISHRS Policy Limiting Attendance by Non-Physicians at ISHRS Meetings

Introduction

The International Society of Hair Restoration Surgery (“ISHRS”) Board of Governors (“Board”) recognizes that the ISHRS’s exempt purpose is advanced by, among other things, providing educational opportunities, training, and courses to physicians and their assistants regarding hair restoration techniques, procedures, and related issues. The Board also recognizes that there have been, and are, physician assistants, and other non-physician personnel, who seek to perform hair restoration techniques and procedures without a physician and/or otherwise outside the scope of their licensure and area of expertise, thereby jeopardizing patient safety. Accordingly, the Board determined that patient safety is advanced and the ISHRS’s exempt purpose is furthered by limiting attendance by non-physicians at ISHRS educational meetings and courses in accordance with this Policy.

Policy

1. Only physicians and Authorized Non-Physicians (as defined herein) may attend the ISHRS’s Annual Scientific Meeting or any ISHRS sponsored educational courses (“ISHRS Course”). For the purposes of this Policy, Authorized Non-Physicians include only surgical assistants, technicians, and other office personnel employed by an ISHRS Physician Member (as defined in ISHRS’s Bylaws, including Fellow, Associate Member, Member, Resident Member, Emeritus Member) or ISHRS Physician Member Applicant (Member-Pending) with a completed application on file (Associate Member, Member, Resident Member, Emeritus Member) who attends the same ISHRS Course*. The ISHRS Physician Member or ISHRS Physician Member Applicant must have a clinical hair restoration practice and perform hair restoration surgery. For the purposes of this Policy, an Authorized Non-Physician is “employed by” an ISHRS Physician Member or ISHRS Physician Member Applicant only if they have an employer-employee relationship as recognized by law, and the employment is full-time or permanent part-time (i.e., as opposed to an independent contractor, partner, part-time, or temporary service provider, or any other business relationship), and the Authorized Non-Physician must be located in the same state/location as the physician who must be licensed in that state/location.
2. An Authorized Non-Physician will only be permitted to attend an ISHRS Course if his/her ISHRS Physician Member/ISHRS Physician Member Applicant employer also attends the ISHRS Course* and completes and submits a signed Letter of Attestation in the form prescribed by ISHRS verifying their employment. A copy of the current Letter of Attestation required by ISHRS is attached to this Policy.
3. Specific to stand alone Workshops with a separate Assistants Track: An Authorized Non-Physician will be permitted to attend without his/her employing physician if the following criteria are met. The ISHRS believes that a physician performing hair restoration should be acquainted with all aspects of hair restoration surgery, including the duties performed by the assistants and technicians. To ensure that the employing physician has the fundamental knowledge base there are physician requirements in order for their assistant(s) to attend. An Authorized Non-Physician will only be permitted to attend this type of workshop if his/her ISHRS Physician Member/ISHRS Physician Member Applicant employer has been practicing hair restoration for at least three years **OR** has attended one of the following meetings/courses within the preceding three years: 1) an ISHRS annual scientific meeting and attended the “Basics Course”, 2) the St. Louis University “Hair Transplant 360” Workshop, or 3) the ISHRS Orlando Live Surgery Workshop. The physician must complete and submit the signed Letter of Attestation in the form prescribed by the ISHRS.
4. Falsifying the Letter of Attestation is an ethics violation, and grounds for revoking a Physician Member’s membership.

