

Division:	Fellowship Engagement	Ref. No.	POL-3006
Department:	Fellowship Services		
Title:	FRACS Suffix and Descriptors		

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy outlines the appropriate use of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) 'FRACS' suffix.

The FRACS suffix can only be used by an individual who is a Fellow of the RACS. RACS Fellows utilise the FRACS as a sign to the profession, health services and the public of the professional standard they have achieved and continue to maintain in their practice.

2. KEYWORDS

Suffix, FRACS

3. BODY OF POLICY

3.1. Background

The College mandates consistent use of the FRACS and the awarded Specialty on the recipient's testamur and this designation will be available for Specialist Registration by the Medical Board of Australia or Medical Council of New Zealand. Surgeons who have extra training in specific specialty areas may also wish to advertise this special expertise on their letterhead.

3.2. Composition

The testamurs of Fellows indicate they have been awarded the FRACS and certifies the specialty in which the recipient has been trained or examined. It is the College's view that Fellows should arrange their letterhead and advertisement to reflect the areas of practice for which they are professionally qualified and legally accountable:

3.2.1. FRACS with suffix following in parenthesis:

- a) FRACS (Cardiothoracic Surgery) or (Card)
- b) FRACS (General Surgery) or (Gen)
- c) FRACS (Neurosurgery) or (Neuro)
- d) FRACS (Orthopaedic Surgery) or (Orth)
- e) FRACS (Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery) or (OHNS)
- f) FRACS (Paediatric Surgery) or (Paed)
- g) FRACS (Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery) or (Plast)
- h) FRACS (Urology) or (Urol)
- i) FRACS (Vascular Surgery) or (Vasc)
- j) FRACS (Ophthalmology) or (Ophth)
- k) FRACS (Obstetrics & Gynaecology) or (O & G)

3.2.2. Or alternatively, FRACS without suffix but with the specialty in which the Fellowship Diploma was awarded indicated immediately below.

3.2.3. Fellows may describe the type of surgeon they are by virtue of the Fellowship conferred or specialty area of practice that is formally recognised by the College. For example, Colorectal Surgeon, Hand Surgeon, Transplant Surgeon, etc.

Approved By:	Professional Development & Standards Board	Original Issue:	October 2009
Document Owner:	Manager, Fellowship Services	Version:	3
		Approval Date:	March 2018
		Review Date:	March 2021

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- 3.2.4. Fellows are also free to use descriptions of practice of their choice that are appropriate for their specialty or subspecialty, with the understanding that they are professionally accountable for their training, continuing professional development and applicable registration in this area.

Hence the recommended format is:

Name FRACS (+/- diploma specialty – full or abbreviated)
Fellowship Diploma Specialty or College recognised specialty area Everyday descriptor if required

For example: Dr J Smith FRACS (Gen)
Colorectal Surgeon

Dr J Smith FRACS
Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery
Rhinology

Fellows should be aware of the advertising guidelines produced by the Medical Boards/Councils and other statutory bodies when considering the use of other post nominals.

4. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

FRACS Corporate Identity Guidelines (April 2011).

Approver Professional Development and Standards Board
Authoriser Council

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