The Regional Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Unit is based at Whiston hospital and provides a service with peripheral clinics extending from North Wales and the Isle of Man to Wigan, Leigh and Warrington. Clinics are also held at Alder Hey, Aintree, Broadgreen, The Royal Liverpool, Southport, Ormskirk, Wrexham, Bangor and Llandudno.

There are 14 consultants with subspecialty interests as diverse as upper and lower limb reconstruction, breast reconstruction, burns and skin cancer management as outlined below.

Hand injuries, with vessel, nerve, bone and tendon reconstruction in addition to secondary correction from older injuries. Elective hand conditions are also covered, including compression neuropathies, dupuytrens disease and arthritis.

The regional department offers the full range of breast reconstructive options both as immediate or delayed breast reconstruction. These techniques include free flap reconstruction with perforator based DIEP flap, considered by many to be the gold standard in breast reconstruction.

The regional burns unit is based at Whiston, providing acute burn care and secondary reconstructive procedures with an intensive care facility and the services of a full MDT. There is excellent cross-speciality cooperation with surgeons of other disciplines in the management of craniofacial abnormalities, lower limb injuries, abdominal and perineal reconstruction.

A dedicated prosthetic service works closely with the clinicians creating facial prosthetics, customised implants for a variety of defects, advising on skin camouflage, tattoo, the management of difficult scars and electrolysis.

The Regional Plastic and Reconstructive Unit conducts research into skin cancer, burn care and hand surgery at The University of Liverpool and Liverpool John Moores University.

It has built a national reputation for teaching and is emerging into the international arena. The unit has research and educational relationships with universities in Liverpool, Manchester, Salford, Preston and Bristol.

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