



Press Release - Health and Social Care Select Committee Report on the Impact of Body Image on Mental and Physical Health

‘Regulate non-surgical cosmetic procedures within a year to prevent exploitation, urge MPs’

This important report is published today by the Health and Social Care Select Committee. The JCCP gave written and oral evidence to the Committee in June and called for a range of specific public protection measures to be put in place as soon as possible within the context of the Government’s new proposed licensing system for non-surgical treatments in England.

The report advises that ‘The Government must speed up the introduction of a promised licensing regime for non-surgical cosmetic procedures to prevent vulnerable people being exploited. The **Impact of body image on mental and physical health** report identifies a rise in body image dissatisfaction as the driver behind a new market that to date has remained largely unregulated. The dangers posed by non-surgical cosmetic procedures in vulnerable groups were evident throughout the inquiry say MPs’.

The Inquiry Team noted that ‘The Government has new powers to introduce a licensing regime for non-surgical cosmetic procedures however a consultation on what that regime should look like is still awaited. Legislation should require online commercial content to carry a logo to identify body images that have been digitally altered while the Government is urged to work with the industry and the ASA to discourage advertisers and influencers from doctoring their images’.

The wide-ranging report also calls for a Government review of the growing use of anabolic steroids for cosmetic purposes and proposes a safety campaign for those at risk. Long-term use has been linked with cardiovascular disease and brain changes.

The report can be accessed here: <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm5803/cmselect/cmhealth/114/report.html>

Key recommendations to Government included in the Committee’s report:

Non-surgical cosmetic procedures:

- *Introduce new licensing regime by July 2023*
- *Dermal fillers should be made prescription-only substances, in line with Botox*
- *Minimum standards on education and training for administering practitioners to ensure patient safety*
- *Establish 'Non-Surgical Cosmetic Procedures' safety taskforce with regulatory bodies among its members to the issues of remote prescribing, appropriateness of premises, education and training standards as well as accountability and governance. The existence of a taskforce should provide the opportunity for a more co-ordinated approach. The taskforce should also review the impact and operation of the future licensing regime when it is in place. We also heard evidence about the difficulties in enforcing existing regulations of non-surgical cosmetic procedures, as complaints relating to an aesthetic practice often span a number of different regulators. The new safety taskforce must ensure a coordinated approach to the enforcement of new and existing regulations in the industry, and the Government must ensure sufficient resources are available to the relevant bodies*



- *Two-part consent process should include full medical and mental health history with 48-hour cooling off period*

Body image:

- *Work with industry and ASA to encourage advertisers and influencers not to doctor images*
- *Commercial images should carry a logo if digitally altered*
- *Diagnosis and treatment of Body Dysmorphic Disorder (BDD) should be made a priority*

The Health and Social Care Committee Chair Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt said:

“The government must act urgently to end the situation where anyone can carry out non-surgical cosmetic procedures, regardless of training or qualifications. We heard of some distressing experiences – a conveyor belt approach with procedures carried out with no questions asked, procedures that have gone wrong, the use of filthy premises”.

“It was clear throughout our inquiry that some groups are particularly vulnerable to exploitation in this growing market that has gone largely unregulated. We need a timetable now for a licensing regime with patient safety at its centre to reduce those risks. We hope that ministers will listen to our recommendations and set about creating the safety standards that anyone seeking treatment has a right to expect.”

Prof. David Sines CBE, the Chair of the JCCP said: “We are delighted that the key issues raised in our representation to the Select Committee have been supported by Jeremy Hunt and his colleagues. We very much look forward to continuing our engagement with the Government and health care regulators during the forthcoming months to realise the key objective of embedding patient safety and public protection for members of the public who elect to engage with non-surgical procedures within the context of national enforceable legislation’.

The JCCP will continue to call for other additional measures to supplement the proposed licensing system:

- The need for extended powers to be given to the CQC to inspect all premises where invasive procedures that are included in the license are to be performed.
- The Minister Maria Caulfield MP is requested to seek an assurance that the CQC will develop a memorandum of understanding with local authority licensing organisations to perform an integrated and enhanced scheme of regulation for aesthetics to avoid duplication for those healthcare professionals who are already registered with the CQC.
- To call for the implementation of a national register of approved qualifications and of approved education and training providers.
- To consider whether the PSA could be given extended powers to oversee registers of approved education and training providers and qualifications in the sector in addition to their current statutory function of overseeing practitioner registers.
- Ofqual to be requested to ensure that they only approve qualifications in the future that meet the new Government standard for education and training for the aesthetics sector.
- Dermal fillers to become a prescription only device - to be agreed with the MHRA.
- The Minister to be requested to write to all Professional Regulatory Bodies who have responsibility for prescribing to seek assurance that they will enforce guidance to ensure that all prescribers do not perform remote prescribing in the aesthetics sector.
- A Government enforced system of annual data collection on types of aesthetic treatments, numbers of practitioners, premises, training courses and complications to inform the evidence base of a robust system of public protection in the UK.



- National, mandatory education and training standards for all practitioners who practise in the industry.
- The legal enforcement of the requirement for **all** practitioners to have an appropriate level of medical indemnity insurance and to provide a transparent redress scheme for service users.
- National scrutiny and action to prevent the promotion through social media of unsafe, unethical and exaggerated messaging about products, education, training and aesthetic service provision.

NOTE TO EDITORS

1. The JCCP registers practitioners and training providers with the key remit of ensuring patient safety and public protection. It has been established to assist members of the public who are considering non-surgical treatments, such as injections, fillers, lasers, peels and hair restoration surgery. It offers advice on patient safety and how to gain access to registers of approved practitioners.
2. The JCCP practitioner register operates through the Professional Standards Authority which is accountable to Parliament. The JCCP is a UK registered Charity.
3. The JCCP published a 10-point plan in 2021 for Safer Regulation in the Aesthetic Sector, https://www.jccp.org.uk/ckfinder/userfiles/files/10_point_plan.pdf

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