

# Botulinum Toxin and Cosmetic Fillers (Children) Act 2021

## New guidance to be Issued shortly

The purpose of this notice is to remind all aesthetic practitioners that this Act is coming in to force on the 1st October this year and has implications for all practitioners, irrespective of whether they treat persons under the age of eighteen or not!

The main purpose of the Act is to prohibit the administering of botulinum toxin, or a filler by way of injection for a cosmetic purpose (in the absence of a recorded medical diagnosis), to a person under 18 in England. It will also be an offence to make arrangements to undertake, or arrange for another person to undertake, these procedures on a person under 18 in England.

The Act advises that where there is an assessed medically determined need, the procedures will still be available to persons under 18 from a limited range of registered health professionals (doctors, dentists, pharmacists, nurses).

The prohibition aims to reinforce existing good practice within the aesthetics industry.

“Under the Act, it is an offence for a person to administer, in England, to another person

- botulinum toxin, or
- a subcutaneous, submucous or intradermal injection of a filler for a cosmetic (as opposed to a medically determined) purpose, where that person is under the age of 18”.

It will also be an offence to make arrangements to undertake, or arrange for another person to undertake, these procedures to a person under 18 in England.

The exception to this would be if the person administering the injections could show that they were:

- a registered medical practitioner (doctor);
- a registered health professional (nurse, dentist or pharmacist) acting in accordance with the directions of a registered doctor; or
- had taken reasonable steps to establish the person’s age, and reasonably believed that they were aged 18 or over.

The new law applies to everybody in England, not just businesses, including:

- providers of clinical healthcare services and regulated healthcare professionals working in these services;
- commercial providers of cosmetic procedures e.g. beauty therapists, mobile aesthetic practitioners, regulated healthcare professionals; and
- individuals performing the procedures on an informal basis.

The DHSC will be issuing formal guidance within the next two weeks which we will post on our website and share directly with our Registrants.

Professor David Sines CBE

Chair – JCCP

17th September 2021

-Ends-

**Notes to Editors:**

For general information and enquiries on the JCCP and a full version of the JCCP Guidelines on use of Social Media go to: [www.jccp.org.uk](http://www.jccp.org.uk)

For further information on standards for non-surgical aesthetic treatments and hair restoration surgery please go to: [www.cosmeticstandards.org.uk](http://www.cosmeticstandards.org.uk)

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