

Joint Council for Cosmetic Practitioners calls for statutory regulation of high-risk cosmetic treatments

The Joint Council for Cosmetic Practitioners (JCCP) has today called for the statutory regulation of cosmetic treatments involving injectables, fillers, invasive lasers, 'deep' peels and other invasive treatments and says these should only be administered by regulated healthcare professionals.

The JCCP's call for tighter regulation comes after a devastating investigation was reported in The Times newspaper today which has revealed examples of beauticians injecting younger women with "black market" drugs, 'putting them at risk of being disfigured for life'.

The JCCP operates a voluntary practitioner register which is accredited by the Government's Professional Standards Authority, which is accountable to Parliament, and believes there should be national, mandatory education and training standards for all practitioners in the industry. It is also calling for a framework of statutory regulation to ensure that practitioners who cannot meet the required standards for safe and effective practice will not be able to practise legally.

Professor David Sines CBE, the Chair and Registrar of the JCCP said:

"After discussion with practitioners, consumers, patients, stakeholders and politicians we are today calling for the Government to immediately introduce legislation to regulate the non-surgical aesthetic sector in the UK. We have concluded that in the interests of patient safety and public protection, high-risk and potentially harmful and invasive procedures, such as the injection of toxins, deep penetrative lasers, the administration of dermal fillers and the intravenous application of vitamins and 'platelet rich' plasma should only be administered by appropriately trained healthcare professionals.

"The JCCP receives an average of more than thirty complaints and 'issues of concern' each week regarding unsafe practice associated with treatments, medicines and the supply of aesthetic products and the training standards and qualifications that many practitioners present with.

"As a starting point, I would urge all Parliamentarians to support the amendment that the JCCP and others have tabled to the Health and Care Bill, currently progressing through Parliament, which would introduce a mandated licensing regime for the more invasive cosmetic treatments and make it an offence for someone to practise without a licence."

In recent years the JCCP has witnessed a growing number of harmful complications arising from unlicensed drugs or poor treatment by inappropriately qualified and trained practitioners. JCCP has also become increasingly concerned about the use of unlicensed medicines and released a guidance statement on this last December. This guidance has been reviewed by UK professional regulators and notes that the use of unlicensed brands of botulinum toxin cannot currently be supported for cosmetic purposes. The JCCP also notes that the provision of unlicensed medicines, such

as Botulax, or indeed any prescription medicine, without a valid prescription is an offence.

The JCCP welcomes this investigation by The Times and would support any decision by regulators to hold prescribers and practitioners to account whenever their practice places the public at risk of harm.

The JCCP's guidance on the use of unlicensed medicines can be found at;

[Prescribing unlicensed medicines in cosmetic procedures – Botulinum toxins.](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION or INTERVIEWS WITH Prof. David Sines please call:

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NOTE TO EDITORS

1. The regulation of cosmetic treatments varies across the UK. In England and Northern Ireland, cosmetic premises only need to register with the local authority but there are no powers to refuse registration. In Wales, a national licensing scheme is currently being implemented but only for five treatments, excluding some of the high-risk procedures like botulinum toxins and dermal fillers. In Scotland, a government consultation last year sought views on introducing a licensing regime for cosmetic treatments.
2. 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.
3. The JCCP practitioner register operates through the Professional Standards Authority which is accountable to Parliament.
4. The JCCP recently published a 10-point plan for Safer Regulation in the Aesthetic Sector, <https://www.jccp.org.uk/ckfinder/userfiles/files/10%20point%20plan.pdf>

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