

PE2137/A: Fair regulation for non-medical aesthetic injectors

Scottish Government written submission, 24 January 2025

The petition follows the publication on 20 December of a [consultation](#) on proposals to regulate non-surgical cosmetic procedures (NSCPs). The consultation closes on 14 February 2025 and builds on an earlier [consultation in 2020](#) which showed overwhelming (98%) support for tighter regulation for these procedures. The new consultation puts forward more detailed proposals for what that further regulation could look like.

Scottish Government welcomes the petition's support for robust regulation of NSCPs.

The petitioner objects to banning non-medical 'aesthetic injectors' from performing these procedures and says that any ban will drive such services underground whereas 'proper regulation' that includes mandatory accredited training, knowledge of the procedures and strict safety protocols would foster a safer, more equitable industry while retaining the diversity of expertise and affordability that consumers value.

The consultation *does not* propose a ban on non healthcare professional practitioners from performing injections of Botox[®] or dermal fillers. The proposal is that certain procedures should be undertaken in a premises regulated by Healthcare Improvement Scotland, that they should be undertaken by a trained practitioner working under the supervision of an appropriate healthcare professional, who would be available to prescribe any prescription only medicines required in the procedure, or support in the management of any complications.

This is part of a differentiated approach where NSCPs have been categorised into three groups based on a number of factors including the risks of the procedures, and the level of training required to carry them out safely. The groupings are:

- **Group 1** procedures are the least invasive and lowest risk. We propose that these can take place in a licensed premises by licenced individuals or in a Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) regulated premises.
- **Group 2** procedures are more invasive and higher risk. We propose that these be restricted to HIS regulated premises, where they can be undertaken by either a healthcare professional or a trained practitioner working under the supervision of such a professional. The proposal is that this group includes any procedure that requires, (or may require) the use of a POM. This may include Botox[®] and dermal fillers, as well as other injection procedures.
- **Group 3** procedures are those which by virtue of either the complexity of the procedure, or the risk profile (e.g. Brazilian Butt Lifts), we propose should only be undertaken by the appropriate healthcare professional.

Full details of the procedures and proposed groupings are available in the consultation.

Both Botox[®], and the dissolving agent Hyaluronidase (frequently required in the management of complications arising from dermal filler procedures) are prescription only medicines, which must be prescribed by a registered healthcare professional who is a prescriber and who has completed a full assessment of the patient. We are not proposing any changes to this.

In taking forward work on any potential new regulations, Scottish Government will continue to seek views from, and consider the impact on, existing businesses. In addition to the consultation, Scottish Government is engaging further with practitioners working in the sector.

No decisions have been made. Scottish Government will confirm any plans for legislation required once the consultation is closed and we have analysed the consultation responses. The proposals will be refined in the light of the feedback received. Any further regulation will be subject to parliamentary processes.

Scottish Government anticipate strong views in response to this consultation. That is why the consultation is open to enable us to hear them before any decisions are made. The petitioner, signatories to the petition, businesses and members of the public are all encouraged to respond to the consultation, to help inform the preparation of any future regulations for NSCPs that are proportionate, robust and future-proofed, protecting the public and supporting reputable businesses to operate safely.

I hope you find my response helpful and informative.

Chief Operating Officer