



# The All Party Parliamentary Group on Skin

Quarterly Update

Jan-Mar 2014

58-60 Kensington Church Street, London W8 4DB

[www.appgs.co.uk](http://www.appgs.co.uk)

## SUNBED REGULATION IN ENGLAND

In November 2013, the All Party Parliamentary Group on Skin (APPGS) decided to carry out a short inquiry into the effectiveness of sunbed regulations in England. This decision resulted from a number of media reports revealing the extent to which England's regulations fall short of those introduced in the devolved nations.

The 2010 Sunbed (Regulations) Act introduced a ban on sunbed use by under-18s – a hugely important step forward. The devolved nations however have introduced additional rules, over and above this ban, covering topics such as unstaffed/unattended sunbeds, the role of health information and safety precautions such as appropriate clothing.

There is also a concern that the ban on under-18s has not been properly enforced in some areas.

In order to assess the extent to which the English regulations could be improved, an oral evidence session was held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2014 to give witnesses the chance to make their case in front of parliamentary and non-parliamentary members. Full minutes of the discussion can be found on the APPGS [website](http://www.appgs.co.uk). Witnesses included representatives from the below organisations:

- The Sunbed Association (TSA)
- Cancer Research UK (CRUK)
- Liverpool City Council
- The Local Government Association
- The British Association of Dermatologists (BAD)
- The Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment (COMARE)
- A past user of sunbeds and cancer patient

Following the oral evidence session, a written consultation was then issued via the Group's website and member distribution list. The consultation closed on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2014 and the APPGS is planning to issue final recommendations to the Department of Health in the next few weeks. The Group would welcome all the support it can get from members once the final recommendations have been published.



## DERMATOLOGY DEBATE – WESTMINSTER HALL



In December 2013, APPGS member, Sir Edward Leigh tabled an adjournment debate on the status of dermatology services in the UK. A number of issues were covered including:

- The Group's 2013 report on the psychological effects of skin disease.
- The prevalence of skin disease (approximately 24% of people visit their GP with a skin complaint each year) and the fact that GP training in dermatology is not compulsory.
- The lack of a policy lead for dermatology in NHS England or the Department of Health
- The lack of uptake of the only two dermatological NICE quality standards on psoriasis and childhood eczema
- The absence of NHS outcome indicators pertaining to skin disease.

Since the debate, the APPGS has been busy rallying support amongst its members and informing them of the commitment made in the debate by Jane Ellison MP, the Minister for Public Health, namely to draw the concerns of the House to the attention of the relevant NHS and professional bodies.

With an eye to capitalising on the interest of parliamentarians, Sir Paul Beresford MP (APPGS Chairman) and Sir Edward Leigh MP are now seeking a meeting with the Minister to discuss ways in which the NHS might be encouraged to change its approach to dermatology services.



## DERMATOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Calling all  
parliamentary  
members of  
the APPGS

One of the major themes of December's debate was dermatological education for GPs. Currently there is huge variation in the provision of dermatological education at an undergraduate level, ranging from a few days to a few weeks. Despite skin disease taking up approximately 15% of all GP consultations, there is still no compulsory dermatological element to the GP curriculum. The APPGS needs your help in alerting Health Education England to this fact and the need for joined up action with the relevant professional bodies.

In the meantime, the Advisory Group of the APPGS is pulling together a group of experts in the field of dermatological education. Their aim will be to put together a survey to assess the true extent to which dermatology is covered by medical schools as of mid-2014.

Watch this space for further details.

### PLANNED FUTURE EVENTS

→ **May 2014** (TBC)

The need for full implementation of the NICE quality standards on psoriasis and eczema

→ **Autumn 2014** (TBC)

'Education, education, education' – expanding dermatological knowledge within primary care

→ **Winter 2014/Early 2015** (TBC)

The elderly and skin disease – addressing an unmet need

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