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*This paper was prepared by the Group's secretariat Decideum Ltd\**

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## PURPOSE AND AIMS

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Skin (APPGS) was established in 1994 with an aim to increase understanding about skincare issues in Parliament, and to achieve improvements in the treatment and management of patients with skin disease in England. It also provides an unbiased means of responding to threats to dermatology services and acts as a forum for partners in skincare to engage with politicians with an interest in the issue.

The APPGS has a large and active membership that includes MPs from all political parties, members of the House of Lords, health professionals, patient groups and industry representatives. The APPGS benefits from input from its advisory group, which holds three to four meetings per year. The activities of the advisory group are subject to the approval of the group's parliamentary officers and, in particular, the group's parliamentary chairman, Sir Paul Beresford MP.

The APPGS maintains the following broad set of aims:

- To raise awareness of skin-related issues in Parliament
- To improve the treatment and management of patients with skin conditions
- To provide an unbiased means of responding to threats to dermatology services
- To provide a forum for all skin interested stakeholders
- To advise and make recommendations to government on improving patient care and the design of commissioning frameworks

## CURRENT WORK AND PRIORITIES

2019 looks to be an exciting and busy year for the APPGS. We are in the process of forming an expert working group to support the updating of our previous reports into mental health and skin conditions. We believe this is essential to take advantage of the Government's recent

ending and health priority pledges, as well as the increasing public awareness, around mental health.

This year the APPGS will be working to raise awareness of the risks of skin cancer. This includes hosting a week-long skin cancer exhibition in the Houses of Parliament for parliamentarians in March. We will engage MPs and Peers with a mole check, posters and leaflets – with the overall goal for them to champion our calls for legislative change. We will be highlighting how there is a workforce crisis in dermatology, and hospital services are overwhelmed. However, we will be informing parliamentarians that this is an area of the NHS for which implementable solutions are available.

At the beginning of the year, the APPGS sent FOIs to every Trust in England and the corresponding Health Boards or Trusts in all the devolved nations. The FOIs are designed to uncover workforce issues in localities, particularly around the use of locums and dermatologists working in the community.

The APPGS will be continuing its counsel to parliamentarians around the legislation on the pricing of 'specials' and seek the rapid introduction of promised new legislative powers. This includes forming and creating a consultation on specials in collaboration with the APPG on Access to Medicines and Medical Devices.

Our Chair is to speak to an Adjournment debate in the House of Commons on the topic of unnecessary referrals to secondary care and the inadequate dermatology training and education provided to healthcare professionals. The APPGS is also seeking to discuss solutions to these issues with leading public bodies.

The APPGS is continuously collecting views on what issues matter most to those working in the field. Should you wish to propose a topic to the parliamentary officers, please feel free to do so by contacting the secretariat of the APPGS via: [sebastian.guterres@appgs.co.uk](mailto:sebastian.guterres@appgs.co.uk)