



**This is the first in a series of newsletters to keep practitioners informed about the progress of introducing Special Procedures licensing in Wales**

### Fantastic turnout for the first Engagement Conference



170 tattoo artists and body piercers were welcomed by Dr Frank Atherton, Chief Medical Officer for Wales to our first engagement conference in December.

Practitioners provided useful feedback on: apprenticeships, the cost of licensing, the proposed infection control course, the suggested requirement for a DBS check and the format of the licence application form. This information, together with some open and honest discussions, is helping to inform the next stage of this process.

**Two further conferences have been organised by Chartered Institute of Environmental Health to get a wider opinion from all North Wales practitioners (Monday 11 March) and beauty therapists, ear piercers and acupuncturists in South Wales (Monday 18 March). There is an 'early bird' rate of £30. For more details contact:**

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### Involving you

**You can be involved in the development of new regulations and guidance:**

- **Come to the Engagement Conferences to have your say**
- **Be part of the Engagement Group**
- **As the draft regulations come out for consultation – reply and give your comments.**

### Hepatitis B also as known as HBV

- Is a blood borne virus
- Humans are the only reservoir
- Transmission is by contact with blood or body fluids from an infected person
- Not all infected people show symptoms **SO as a practitioner you must assume everyone is infected.**
- It is estimated that 3 in every 1000 people in the UK may be HBV carriers.
- There is no longer a shortage of the HBV vaccine. Get vaccinated, call your GP or go to your local GUM clinic.
- For full protection, you need three injections of HBV vaccine over 4 to 6 months.
- HBV can survive outside the body for up to 7 days – strict cleaning and disinfection regimes are therefore critical.

More information go to:

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/888/page/43690>

## Did you know?

- Special Procedures includes tattooing, micro blading, micro pigmentation, body piercing, electrolysis and acupuncture.
- To get an individual licence, you will need to attend and pass an approved infection control course. The course is a requirement of the licensing process and not competency to practice.
- Local authorities are currently working to agree one national licensing fee for practitioners and premises in Wales. The cost will be based on admin and officer time taken to process and enforce the licensing scheme. LAs are **prohibited** from making a profit.
- All practitioners undertaking special procedures whether they are registered or not will need to apply for a licence in 2020 to operate in Wales.
- One of the biggest risks of infection associated with tattooing and semi permanent make up is from an emerging pathogen known as Mycobacterium chelonae. It causes serious skin infections and is resistant to many antibiotics. Infections have been associated with contaminated rinse water, fluids used to dilute inks and contaminated ink. In the last 5 years there have been two outbreaks in Wales. Industry standards on preventing this and other infections will be drafted with the legislation.

## What about local councils and environmental health officers?

Welsh Government is working closely with specialist EHOs in Wales to prepare draft regulations and guidance for Special Procedures. In addition to this all 22 local authorities (LAs) are starting to make arrangements for the introduction of the regulations:

- LAs are currently reviewing and updating their registers to ensure they know how many practitioners are legitimately operating in their area and that the information they have is up to date. Many of you will have received a letter requesting information.
- LAs are reviewing the resources they have available to implement these regulations and are planning to review the procedures and resources they have available to support the introduction of this legislation.
- Nominated specialist officers are already involved in developing licensing fees, procedures and documentation, consulting with local practitioners and supporting the development of the infection control course. This is being undertaken through regional and national networks in Wales.
- EHOs are also supporting the practitioners awareness conferences and assisting in the interactive workshops.
- The EHO network extends outside Wales and we are working with colleagues from London and the Midlands who have introduced local licensing schemes.