

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

### UPDATE SUMMARY

We still aim to introduce the new licensing scheme in 2020 but this timetable may slip because we have been busy working to protect and promote the interests of Wales during Brexit. THIS MEANS:

- The current legal requirements regarding registration and enforcement for tattooing, piercing, electrolysis and acupuncture will remain in place for the meantime.
- It gives more time to consult with stakeholders and get the licensing process and conditions right.
- More time to deliver the Level 2 Infection Control Award.

### Body Piercers please note:

The Prescribed Objects for Intimate Piercing (Wales) Regulations 2019 came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019 (links below). These Regs prohibit intimate piercings involving any object, whether jewellery or not in children under the age of 18 years.

<https://gov.wales/intimate-piercing-guidance-businesses-and-practitioners>

### RSPH Level 2 Award in Infection Prevention and Control

To get a personal licence, practitioners will be required to attend and pass an approved infection control qualification.

This qualification has now received approval from the appropriate regulating bodies; Ofqual and Qualifications Wales. We believe that this is the first regulated infection control qualification for special procedures in the UK.

We are now developing the Trainers' Pack to deliver this qualification, this will then be tested and it is anticipated that the one day training course will be available for practitioners by the end of the year.

If you would like more information on this, please visit the RSPH website:

<https://www.rsph.org.uk/qualifications/learners/find-a-qualification.html?q=&place=&category=9A4E55F4-06DA-451E-8B285B3EBF0CBA68>.

## **Malignant Melanomas and suspicious moles – Advice for Practitioners**



Following the engagement conferences many of you asked for guidance on recognising possible danger signs associated with moles. We have worked with ABUHB, Dermnet NZ and Miiskin to produce guidance for practitioners and clients. We hope you find it useful.

<https://gov.wales/moles-and-your-skin-how-spot-danger-signs>

## **Did you know?**

There are approximately 1,850 registered special procedure practitioners in Wales and an estimated 988 registered premises

Welsh Government continues to work with local councils and practitioners to prepare for the introduction of the new licensing scheme

'Dry needling' is a form of acupuncture as defined by the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 and individuals offering this procedure will need to be licensed in Wales.

## **Practitioner Engagement Conferences**

3 practitioner engagement conferences have now taken place; 1 in Conwy and 2 in Cardiff. 341 delegates attended the 3 conferences, 95% of practitioners reported that as a result of attending the conference they felt better informed about the Special Procedures licensing scheme.

Overall delegates welcomed the introduction of the mandatory licensing scheme for special procedures. They supported the introduction of one bespoke infection prevention and control qualification, a national approach to licensing and one public register for licensed practitioners.

However, Practitioners wanted to see the regulations implemented as soon as possible.

The most common concerns are outlined below:

1. Costs to businesses, many of whom are sole traders. Practitioners were concerned there was a risk of licensing becoming a money making exercise if the costs were not transparent. Businesses supported the idea that all local authorities charged the same licensing fee.
2. Standards operated by mobile practitioners and those operating from home, how would this be effectively enforced, many thought the standard for these practitioners should be higher as the risks were greater.
3. How apprentices and conventions would fit into the licensing scheme
4. Private training schools did not provide a consistent or accurate infection prevention and control message and this was having a considerable impact on novice and young practitioners
5. Ensuring a consistent approach to enforcement throughout Wales which wasn't over bureaucratic.

**If you have any queries regarding the mandatory licensing scheme for special procedures or the forthcoming legal requirement please contact: [Sarah.Jones058@gov.wales](mailto:Sarah.Jones058@gov.wales)**