



May 13th 08

MEDIA RELEASE

BATTLE TO KEEP SKIN

SAFEGUARDS

A major campaign has been instigated to oppose government plans to deregulate laser and intense pulsed light beauty and skin care treatments.

White Light Skin Clinics, who were the first to introduce American style high street skin clinics into Britain, say the plan is a major step backwards and will increase the number of poorly qualified practitioners and practices in the UK resulting in a higher risk to patients.

Lasers and especially intense pulsed light offer exceptional results in a number of beauty treatments, but while they are non-invasive and therefore a lot quicker and more simple than cosmetic surgery, they need to be used by highly trained and qualified staff to ensure the best results and total safety for the patient.

The Department of Health has announced that following a 12 week consultation process ending on June 10th, they are planning on making a quick decision which will end regulation in this field starting October 1st this year.

Ella Tracey, Managing Director of White Light Skin Clinics, said she believes deregulation will encourage poor practice and increase the risk for patients.

“While regulation of all the clinics in the UK is undoubtedly time consuming, it ensures a safe, professional environment and reassurance for the general public,” said Ella.

“There are already reports of occasional incorrect usage of laser and ipl technology, and to take away the safeguards that cover the training and also equipment maintenance is a serious cause for concern.”

Ms Tracey said that the regulations will still apply when laser and ipl is used within hospitals, making an unusual situation of medical staff having to adhere to tighter regulations than high street beauty clinics using exactly the same equipment.

White Light Skin Clinics are preparing an appeal document to highlight the dangers of deregulation if it goes through. White Light itself is fully registered with the Healthcare Commission as an independent hospital and with its medical base and highly qualified practitioners, it is unlikely it will be affected by deregulation. However, it says many clinics around the country will make cuts after deregulation and new clinics could open up without adequate safeguards in place.

ENDS.

More information:

Sally Smith at Tradewinds PR
01935 842094 mob 07729 301207
sally@tradewindspr.co.uk

Department of Health

Section 3.10, Chapter 3, Removal from Healthcare Commission regulation of certain private and voluntary healthcare services

www.white-light.com