



DHSC consultation: Amendments to regulations 3A, 19 and 247A of the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 to support the ongoing delivery of COVID-19 and influenza vaccination

FODO response

FODO is the national UK association for eye care providers. Our members provide the vast majority of NHS primary eye care in the UK, stayed open during the Covid 19 pandemic to support the population when hospitals closed to ensure the public had access to essential eye care (including urgent care) and many volunteered in other healthcare capacities during the crisis.

FODO has seen the response submitted by The College of Optometrists - the professional body for optometry in the UK - and fully supports the reasoning they set out. FODO endorsing responses are below.

Question 1: Do you agree or disagree that the provisions provided in regulation 3A should be extended?

- Agree ✓
- disagree
- don't know

Question 2: Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to set a time limit on regulation 3A until 1 April 2026?

- agree
- disagree ✓
- don't know

Question 3: Do you agree or disagree that the provisions provided as part of regulation 19 should be extended?

- Agree ✓
- disagree
- don't know

Question 4: Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to set a time limit on regulation 19 until 1 April 2026?

- agree
- disagree ✓
- don't know

Question 5: Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to remove condition A from regulation 247A?

- agree ✓
- disagree
- don't know

Question 6: Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to set a time limit on regulation 247A until 1 April 2026?

- Agree ✓
- disagree
- don't know

Question 7: How confident do you feel that the NHS would have an effective response before 1 April 2026 to support the ongoing delivery of COVID-19 and influenza national vaccination campaigns, if the proposed amendments to regulations 3A, 19 and 247A were not made?

- very confident
- confident
- somewhat confident
- slightly confident ✓
- not confident at all
- don't know

Please explain your answer and reflect if your view varies by regulation (maximum 500 words). In addition to the College's response, most clinicians will rally to help in any way they can in a national emergency. However, the constant undervaluing of healthcare staff through chronic NHS underfunding, historic low pay wards and bureaucratic responses to legitimate concerns can only undermine the morale of the very people the nation needs to step forward in an epidemic or pandemic situation. These strategic factors should be part of all UK governments' thinking about effective response planning.

Question 8: Do you think the proposals risk impacting people differently with reference to their protected characteristics?

- yes
- no
- don't know ✓

Question 9: Do you think the proposals risk impacting people differently with reference to their protected characteristics or where they live in Northern Ireland?

- yes
- no
- don't know ✓