

Key Points

- A single, national, proportionate regime for registration of Life Science staff should be implemented
- National registry will be aligned to current practices for healthcare professionals and independently accredited via the Professional Standards Authority
- An industry managed scheme with an independent chair and governance structure.

A coalition of Trade Associations (ABHI, ABPI, BHTA, BIVDA, AxREM, Barema, BDIA) continue to fully support the principles behind credentialing – the need to have in place a robust process for managing interactions between relevant staff from Life Sciences companies and healthcare professionals and patients.

However, to ensure that any process implemented is the most effective and cost-efficient solution, suppliers need a clear statement of the intent and scope required by the NHS.

Industry believes the following to be important requirements for any solution:

- **Standardised:** There should be a national system, with agreed criteria as above, that is acceptable across the NHS
- **Safe:** any scheme should be developed with the objective of enhancing patient & staff safety
- **Transparent:** the scope and criteria for any such scheme should be public and agreed between all parties involved
- **Proportionate:** the criteria should be appropriate to the level of risk and not place undue cost or administrative burden
- **Equitable:** the criteria should be applied across all industry sectors in an equitable manner
- **Compliant:** scheme should meet legal requirements on employment law, data protection as well as government and NHS policy on working with industry
- **Once only:** requirements should not duplicate procedures already in place within the suppliers' processes and evidenced by other mechanisms such as product CE marking, contractual obligations etc.

A low cost, national scheme abiding to the above principles would enable the flexible movement of industry staff and resource in support of NHS goals in an efficient and effective manner.

The proposed system should be aligned to current practices for healthcare professionals in that it is standards based, linked to area of competency and independently accredited via the Professional Standards Authority.

It will outline the standards of conduct expected, education and training requirements and health & safety criteria that would need to be fulfilled. It will encompass a tiered approach to criteria based on patient interaction and risk profile. The scheme will have an independent governance structure with representatives from key stakeholder groups and an independent chair.