

The Skin Care Campaign

Established in 1992 the Skin Care Campaign (SCC) is an umbrella organisation that supports the work of all skin related patient groups and charities, acting on their behalf with all generic skin care campaigning. The SCC aims to work collaboratively with all other skin care stakeholders including professional groups, related healthcare groups, healthcare providers and NHS commissioners.

A significant part of the SCC's campaigning is with the government and Department of Health in addressing inadequate skin care service provision and ensuring new guidelines and strategies for all skin care aims for excellence and equity for all service provision. To achieve this, the SCC works closely with the All Party Parliamentary Group for Skin (APPGS). The APPGS brings together politicians and stakeholders to discuss relevant issues and develop ways of addressing them. The APPGS raises pertinent parliamentary questions and produces reports that reflect on current skin care issues and recommends ways of improving them.

The SCC is funded with donations from the pharmaceutical industry, with monies coming from several pharmaceutical companies that produce dermatological treatments. All donations are made without any strings attached. The SCC would never promote or endorse any specific treatment. Increased mergers and other changes in the pharmaceutical industry make this income stream increasingly tenuous and difficult to obtain.

Although the SCC works with all the skin care groups it's work is on strategic and operational skin care issues – all specific healthcare issues are dealt with by the groups or professionals. The SCC works in England and Northern Ireland and supports the work of independent Skin Care organisations in Scotland and Wales. The SCC enjoys effective working relationships with all of the major skin care stakeholders inc dermatologists, GPs, nurses and others.

The SCC is governed by a board of directors made up of representatives from its membership of patient support groups / charities. The SCC Chief Executive ensures that all of the board's strategic aims are met and operationally works with specific providers of financial, PR, political and IT support.

Recent and on-going work includes:

- Chairing a parliamentary enquiry into Skin Cancer
- Influencing the development of and playing a major role in a parliamentary enquiry into the commissioning of skin care services
- Campaigning for involvement and equity of influence in all skin care fora
- A significant role in developing guidance for the provision of and commissioning of skin care services 'closer to home'
- Ensuring that the criteria for GPs with a specialist interest in skin care is made mandatory by the DoH and adhered to by PCTs and practitioners
- Monitoring and reacting to any skin care service developments whether nationally (by the DoH and NHS) or locally (by individual PCTs) and campaigning for a gold standard service throughout the country
- Working with NICE on the development of guidelines that support best practice in all skin care

The SCC works for the improvement of all holistic care and support for everyone affected by a skin condition.