

Expert says measures are needed for unregulated industry

Calls for tough cosmetic surgery rules



ATOP cosmetic surgeon from North Wales is backing calls to tighten controls on the industry.

Consultant Mr Fahmy S Fahmy, who works at the Spire Yale Hospital in Wrexham, says the proposed regulations are much needed.

Mr Fahmy welcomed the findings of the review of by NHS Medical Director Professor Sir Bruce Keogh.

The review assessed the current rules in England, investigating products, practitioners, insurance, patient information and consent, advertising and marketing of cosmetic interventions.

Thousands of patients are treated each year and until now the non-surgical industry has been almost entirely unregulated.

The rapidly growing industry was believed to be worth £2.3 billion in 2010 and that's estimated to rise to £3.6 billion by 2015.

Spire Healthcare is the second largest private hospital group in the UK and has witnessed a 10% increase in cosmetic surgery patients from 2011 to 2012.

Mr Fahmy said: "It is positive for the industry that these recommendations have been made.

"If someone is considering cosmetic surgery it is important that they are carefully guided, advised and cared for during and after their procedure by a properly qualified hospital surgeon and supporting team.

"Every patient should have confidence that the right person is doing their surgery in the correct facility, using the right equipment."

It was a sentiment echoed by Spire Healthcare's Group Medical Director, Dr JJ de Gorter.

He said: "A review of the cosmetic surgery industry is long overdue.

"I especially welcome the recommendation to establish a national implant register, as well as ensuring all those providing cosmetic interventions are properly registered to do so.

"All cosmetic surgeons working at Spire are on the GMC specialist register and hold appropriate indemnity cover.

"We are pleased the Keogh Review has put a spotlight on the cosmetic surgery industry and I believe these recommendations will prioritise patient safety and ensure individuals are able to access the best possible treatments with

confidence."

Spire Healthcare is the second largest private hospital provider in the UK, with 38 hospitals and ten clinics nationwide. The company is built on a heritage of almost 30 years' experience running successful private hospitals and offers a full range of integrated surgical, medical and diagnostic services.

The company was formed from the sale of BUPA Hospitals to private equity company Cinven in 2007, followed by the purchase of Classic Hospitals and Thames Valley Hospital in 2008. Spire has since built Spire Shawfair Park Hospital (Edinburgh), Montefiore Hospital, acquired London Fertility Centre, and Lifescan.

● For further information visit www.spirehealthcare.com.