



The COLLEGE
of PODIATRY

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Sent via email

Jeane Freeman MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Dear Cabinet Secretary

Re: Vaccination of Healthcare workers

The College of Podiatry was extremely pleased to learn about the progress towards a COVID-19 vaccine, and to hear that the NHS hope to roll out the new COVID-19 vaccine, once approval by the UK medicines regulator has been received.

The College represents over 10,000 podiatrists working in both the NHS and private practice to ensure that those with complex co-morbidities remain fit, healthy and mobile. Independent podiatry practitioners work daily to ensure that the NHS is not deluged with often very elderly patients needing treatment; as such they play a pivotal role in relieving pressure on the NHS. Furthermore, independent practitioners treat many vulnerable people in clinics, care homes and in patients' own homes.

Podiatrists administer medicines parenterally, it is a part of the undergraduate programme, and many already are both supplementary and independent prescribers. Podiatrists are ideally placed to contribute to the necessary expanded workforce in the support of the delivery and administration of the COVID-19 vaccine and the College of Podiatry is supportive of the move to do so.

The College notes with interest that healthcare workers will be prioritised for the vaccine. Given that a significant proportion of our podiatry colleagues work in independent practice, performing a crucial role in the health ecosystem as described above, I am writing to seek clarity on whether all healthcare workers, regardless of sector, will be prioritised for the vaccine at an early stage.

Representing podiatrists across the UK

The College of Podiatry would be very happy to provide any information required to help support the Government to create evidence-based policy in this area which will ultimately improve patient safety and outcomes for patients.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Jamieson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Steve Jamieson
Chief Executive
The College of Podiatry

CC: Carolyn McDonald, Chief Allied Health Professions Officer, Scottish Government

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