



# Homeopathy International

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**Release – Position Statement**

**February 27th, 2024.**

## **Vaccination and informed consent**

The position of Homeopathy International (HINT) on vaccination and informed consent is simple and straightforward and is in line with the current legal situation in the UK. People must be free to make decisions about their health and their children's health, and they must have all the information required to reach their decisions.

HINT is pro children and pro informed consent, in full agreement with UK law. It is not “anti vaxx”, a phrase increasingly used to demean the undecided.

The injection of foreign substances into the body of an adult or child should only be done as an elective procedure, with the fully informed consent of the adult concerned, or in the case of a child, the parents of the child. (There may be emergencies necessitating immediate injection of possible lifesaving medications, where informed consent is impracticable. This proviso is not applicable to elective vaccination.)

The Bolam test is the cornerstone of evaluating clinical decisions and actions. Reaffirmed as the requisite standard for assessing medical professional conduct in 2023, (<https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWCA/Civ/2023/605.html>) it is based on the principle that a medical professional is not guilty of negligence if they have acted in accordance with a practice accepted as proper by a responsible body of medical opinion, even though other professionals may disagree.

HINT recognises the importance of balancing professional judgment with evidence-based practices, ensuring that patient consent and understanding are paramount. The re-establishment of the Bolam test underscores the necessity for medical practitioners to adhere to recognised and accepted standards among their peers, fostering an environment of trust and confidence in healthcare delivery.

Healthcare professionals who are asked for information about vaccination may find that adults and parents of children may need to read or research widely.

Information about vaccination in the public media is influenced by the nature of the vaccine industry and controlled by a few large corporations. Corporate law requires them to put shareholder benefit before all else. To maximise shareholder return, in a vaccine marketplace worth nearly \$50 Billion annually, those corporations employ huge advertising budgets. The public media depend on advertising income, and not surprisingly, feel obliged to reflect the views of their important advertisers. This seriously distorts the balance of information provided to readers and viewers.

Adults and the parents of children are strongly encouraged by the media and the NHS, to seek the advice of their doctors concerning vaccination. Many do so, and they may feel the need to look no further.

HINT is aware, as are other observers of the vaccination question, that some adults and parents wish to look further for information, as is their right. HINT considers that when healthcare professionals are sought out for information, those professionals must exercise their duty to listen carefully, and to give financially disinterested and up to date information, within the limits set by their knowledge. The perception of ambivalence and uncertainty in the NHS that some people experience is perhaps understandable.

GP practices receive an NHS financial bonus, which increases with the number of vaccinations performed. If this is not always made clear, a perceived lack of financial transparency becomes entangled with the legal necessity for the doctor to give comprehensive, disinterested information, prior to gaining valid informed consent.

HINT believes it is the duty of all professionals with healthcare roles, to listen carefully, and to facilitate in a financially disinterested and informed manner, people's search for the information about vaccination that they seek, to enable them to make important decisions about their health, and the health of their children.

### **Homeopathy International Steering Group**

#### **Note**

This statement supersedes the Position Statement on Vaccination and informed consent issued 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019. The original statement may be found [here](#)