Westminster Health Forum policy conference:
Next steps for medicines regulation in the UK
Timing: Morning, Friday, 23rd October 2026
*****Taking place online*****

Draft agenda subject to change

WESTMINSTER HEALTH FORUM

8.30 Registration

9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Liz Twist MP

9.05 **The future of medicine regulations in the UK - considerations for an adaptive, proportionate and internationally competitive system**
Professor Penelope Ward, Visiting Professor, Pharmaceutical Medicine, Centre for Pharmaceutical Medicine Research, King's College London
Questions and comments from the floor

9.30 **Supporting rare disease innovation in the UK - regulation, research and patient priorities**
Senior representative, rare diseases

9.40 **Earlier access to innovative therapies - the future of regulatory pathways for rare diseases and advanced treatments**
assessing MHRA Rare Disease Therapies Framework | eligibility criteria, evidence requirements and approaches to accelerated access | balancing earlier availability of promising therapies with confidence in safety, quality and effectiveness | ongoing evidence generation, conditional approvals and long-term monitoring | regulatory approaches for therapies addressing high unmet need | the role of the IMA pathway in enabling earlier access | approaches to managing uncertainty in regulatory decision-making, including patient needs, consent and communication of uncertainty | aligning regulatory pathways and NHS commissioning processes to support timely adoption | examining infrastructure requirements and specialist delivery pathways needed for wider rollout
Professor Mahesh Parmar, Professor, Medical Statistics and Epidemiology and Director, MRC Clinical Trials Unit and Institute of Clinical Trials and Methodology, University College London
Justin Soon, Senior Director, Market Access, Alexion, AstraZeneca Rare Disease
Senior representative, advocacy
Senior representative, NHS

10.05 Questions and comments from the floor

10.30 **Aligning regulation, health technology assessment, reimbursement and NHS adoption**
Senior representative, evaluation
Questions and comments from the floor

10.55 **Chair's closing remarks**
Liz Twist MP

11.00 Break

11.10 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian

11.15 **Strengthening the UK research environment - clinical trials reform, delivery capacity and regulatory science**
Senior representative, research
Questions and comments from the floor

11.40 **Regulatory innovation and UK life sciences - emerging technologies, investment and international collaboration**
implications of the Life Sciences Sector Plan one-year on | regulatory approaches for personalised medicines, gene and cell therapies and ATMPs | post-authorisation evidence generation and long-term monitoring | translating research innovation into patient access and NHS adoption | AI, real-world and in silico evidence, data-enabled regulation and health data infrastructure | patient involvement, transparency and public confidence | UK competitiveness, market access, research delivery and investment | surveillance, AI-enabled pharmacovigilance and pre-authorisation assessment | point-of-care manufacturing and quality across sites | supply chains, workforce and NHS readiness | international regulatory cooperation and information-sharing
Dr Sophie Castell, CEO, Myeloma UK
Senior representative, legal
Senior representative, industry
Senior representative, AI/innovation
Senior representative, NHS
Questions and comments from the floor

12.30 **Next steps for medicines regulation in the UK - supporting innovation, patient access and public confidence**
Dr Ed Middleton, Director, Strategy, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency
Questions and comments from the floor

12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Health Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Tess Mitchell-Thomas, Westminster Health Forum