



Contact: Ms. Linda Merritt  
Chairman  
lamerritt@bhec.bm  
441-292-0112

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## **Press Release**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

#### **Bermuda Health Council Submits Health Service Regulations**

Hamilton, Bermuda (August 26, 2008) Bermuda Health Council (BHeC) today announced it has submitted to the Ministry of Health regulations that will govern both healthcare businesses and health professionals. Some of the many functions of the Council is to regulate health service providers and establish fees, standards and codes of practice and regulate health professionals. The Ministry of Health hopes to have the regulations before the House of Assembly in 2009. The BHeC are also in discussions concerning a Certificate of Need.

Chairman, Linda Merritt stated, "In Bermuda we are currently working in an environment where science and technology have outpaced outdated legislation. With the number of new establishments being opened to render Microdermabrasion services and Botox injections provided to the public the consumer must do their homework. Microdermabrasion should be performed by a trained aesthetician, registered nurse or a cosmetic dermatologist under the supervision of a medical doctor or plastic surgeon and Botox injections by Board certified and medically trained plastic surgeons."

Ms. Merritt said, "It is our responsibility at the Bermuda Health Council, to inform and help to educate the general public in the absence of legislation and regulations to govern who can perform in-office cosmetic medical procedures. We are growing increasingly troubled by the number of medical spas, hair salons and other entities who may send their staff to unaccredited schools to learn to perform these services. The concern is for the patient who might not be aware of the associated risks, side effects and possible complications.

"Some of the side effects of Botox injections, a seemingly harmless procedure, far outweigh the benefits and should be taken into consideration when making a decision. We urge all residents to consult with their doctor in the first instance to get a professional opinion. The doctor will be able to answer all questions and will advise if the patient is suitable physically and emotionally for the enhancement procedure. If given the okay to move forward with the procedure the patient should then conduct their own research and

ask questions of the establishment and person who will perform the cosmetic enhancement,” Ms. Merritt added.

Ms. Merritt concluded, “In addition, anyone who is considering any type of cosmetic procedure should have a high level of comfort that the person doing the procedure is qualified. After conducting research if a patient still has concerns we encourage them to contact the Bermuda Health Council for assistance.”