

UK REGULATORS – WHO THEY ARE AND WHAT THEY DO

Have you noticed an at home health test on the market that shouldn't be? Maybe you've seen an ad promoting a test with misleading claims or had a test produce false results. With so many regulators in the UK, it is often difficult to know who to turn to when these issues occur. This infographic aims to educate consumers on the various entities and what they regulate.

ASA (Advertising Standards Authority)

Ensures ads for health tests are not misleading, exaggerated, or false. Protects you from dishonest marketing.

TS (Trading Standards)

Enforces consumer protection laws. Takes action if a health product is sold illegally or with deceptive claims.

CQC (Care Quality Commission)

Regulates health and social care providers in England. If a clinic is offering DTC tests, CQC checks that it meets safety and quality standards.

HIS (Healthcare Improvement Scotland)

Regulates independent hospitals and clinics in Scotland. Role is to monitor and improve the quality of healthcare services.

GMC (General Medical Council)

Regulates doctors in the UK. If a doctor is involved in interpreting or recommending a DTC test, GMC ensures they follow professional standards.

RPS (Royal Pharmaceutical Society)

Represents pharmacists and sets professional standards. Ensures that pharmacy professionals give accurate advice about health tests.

NMC (Nursing and Midwifery Council)

Regulates nurses and midwives in the UK. If they are involved in delivering or advising on DTC health tests, NMC ensures they act safely and ethically.

MHRA (Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency)

Makes sure medical tests (like DTC kits) are safe, reliable and properly approved before being sold and advertised to the public.