

OTAS INSIGHT • LG-002

Event medical providers in England will need CQC registration from 6 December 2027: applications are open now

Operational

Tactical

Strategic

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Correct as of 20 October 2026

From 6 December 2027, providing treatment of disease, disorder or injury at an event in England without being registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) will be an offence [6][13]. The registration window opened on 7 September 2026. Apply by 1 March 2027 with a complete application to expect a decision in time [1][6]. First aid only is not in scope. Care given or supervised by a doctor, nurse, paramedic or other listed professional usually is [4][5].

Key takeaways

- **The change:** two exceptions that kept most event healthcare out of CQC regulation have been removed [10].
- **Apply now:** the window opened on 7 September 2026. 1 March 2027 is the date to aim for [6].
- **The offence:** from 6 December 2027, for providers delivering this care at events without registration [6][13].
- **First aid only:** not regulated activity, so no registration is needed for it [5].
- **Organisers:** you do not register the event, but CQC says you share responsibility for the right level of cover [3][5].
- **England only:** Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland have their own regulators [17] to [20].

What changed

The Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) (Amendment) Regulations 2026, made on 29 April 2026, remove two exceptions for temporary treatment at sports grounds, gymnasiums and sporting or cultural events [10]. CQC says no location-based exceptions remain: if a service meets the test for treatment of disease, disorder or injury (TDDI), whoever is responsible must register, wherever the care takes place [3].

CQC links the change to the Manchester Arena Inquiry, which asked the government to consider a regulated standard for event healthcare [3][16]. It also says its own work found significant risk in independent medical care at events, and in some cases serious harm [3].

The dates

Date	What happens
7 September 2026	Providers can apply, or update an existing registration [6].
1 March 2027	Complete applications by this date should get an outcome by 6 December 2027 [6].
6 December 2027	CQC starts regulating. Delivering this care at events unregistered becomes an offence [6].

Providers can keep delivering care at events while they apply, until 5 December 2027 [6]. Later applications will still be assessed, but may not be decided in time [1][6].

Who needs to register

CQC registers the provider, not the event [3][4]. A provider is in scope if its care is given by, or supervised by, a listed healthcare professional, or by a team that includes one supervising in their professional capacity. The list includes doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, operating department practitioners and dental professionals [4].

- **Volunteers:** there is no exemption. Whoever is responsible for the care registers, whether the volunteer or the organisation that commissions them [8].
- **Several providers on one site:** each decides for itself whether it needs to register [4].
- **One base:** a provider working from one base usually registers one location, not each event [8].
- **Already registered for TDDI:** check your registration and Statement of Purpose [1][4].

Who does not

- **First aid only.** Not regulated activity [5]. But if first aiders ask a listed professional for clinical advice, CQC says the provider would need to register [8].
- **Roles not on the list:** emergency care assistants, first responders in emergency care and ambulance care assistants. CQC's examples say the same for physiotherapists and pharmacists [5][8].
- **Transport within the event site** is excepted. Taking patients off site, for example to hospital, needs a different registration [5].
- **A doctor working only in an on-site consulting room** may fall within an existing exception, with limits [5][8].

What it means for organisers

CQC will not register events, and will not advise on the level of cover [3]. It says organisers and providers are both responsible for the right level of cover, set by risk assessment and guidance such as the Event Healthcare Standard [5]. DHSC said that Standard would be published later in 2026 [15]. We found no published Standard on GOV.UK on 20 October 2026 [21].

Where the law applies

England only. The CQC requirement covers health care in, or in relation to, England [12][17]. Wales (Healthcare Inspectorate Wales), Scotland (Healthcare Improvement Scotland) and Northern Ireland (the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority) have their own regulators [18] to [20]. We could not confirm how each treats event medical providers, so check with them directly.

What to do

Operational: medics, first aiders and crew

- Know whether your role on the day is first aid only, or clinical care [5].

- Work within your training and registration, and escalate cases that need clinical judgement [5].

Tactical: event, safety and medical leads

- List every provider on your events from late 2027 and ask each for its CQC position, with the reason [4][8].
- Agree the event boundary and who takes patients off site, in writing [5].

Strategic: organisers and directors

- Ask for registration evidence in contracts and tenders for events from December 2027 [6].
- If you run in-house or volunteer cover, decide who the legal provider is, and apply by 1 March 2027 if it is in scope [4][6].

Action box

Level	Do this
Operational	Know whether your role is first aid only or clinical care, and escalate cases that need clinical judgement.
Tactical	List every provider, ask for its CQC position, and agree the event boundary and off-site transport.
Strategic	Put registration requirements in contracts, decide who is the provider for in-house cover, and apply by 1 March 2027 if needed.

Frequently asked questions

When does CQC registration for event medical providers start?

Providers can apply now. The window opened on 7 September 2026. CQC starts regulating on 6 December 2027 [1][6].

What is the deadline to apply?

Apply by 1 March 2027 with a complete application to expect an outcome by 6 December 2027. Later applications may not be decided in time [6].

Do first aid providers need to register with CQC?

Not if they only provide first aid. If listed healthcare professionals give or supervise clinical care, registration is likely to be needed [5][8].

Does the event organiser need to register?

No. CQC registers providers, not events. Organisers share responsibility for the right level of healthcare cover [3][5].

Do volunteer medical teams need to register?

There is no exemption for volunteers. Whoever is responsible for the care registers, if it is in scope [8].



Does this apply in Scotland or Wales?

The CQC requirement covers England. Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland have their own regulators. Check with the regulator where the event takes place [12][18][19][20].

What we don't know yet

When the Event Healthcare Standard will be published, how CQC will assess event providers in detail, and how other UK regulators treat event medical providers. The full report sets these out.

This article is general information, not legal, clinical or regulatory advice. It does not say whether any particular provider needs to register: CQC says that decision lies with the provider. Check the CQC guidance and take advice for your own circumstances.

Interest: OTAS Live Ltd, which publishes EPGN, sells event operations services, including event safety management.

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Work with OTAS

Are your event medical arrangements ready for CQC registration in England?

[Request a call with OTAS to discuss how we can help](#)

Edited by Kris Dailly, who has worked in event operations since 2008, and internationally since 2015.

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