NHS England

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Dear colleagues,

EU Exit contingency planning: National Supply Disruption Response system

As part of the national contingency planning to get ready for EU Exit on 31 October 2019, led by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) with support from NHS England and NHS Improvement, I am writing to you with details of the National Supply Disruption Response (NSDR) and actions trusts should take in the event of supply disruption if the UK leaves the EU without a deal.

As you will be aware, established systems and processes already exist for responding to serious supply disruption events for medical products (as set out in Annex A), and in all cases you should continue to use these "business as usual" channels to respond to and resolve issues where possible. To enhance this capability at a national level, these processes will be coordinated through the NSDR capability, set up by DHSC. NSDR systems and operations will monitor the supply situation at a national level and coordinate actions to address any supply disruption incidents should these occur.

Annex A identifies what actions staff should take locally in the event of them experiencing supply disruptions to products and services. A letter has also been issued to NHS Heads of Procurement with further detailed guidance, and with contact details for the NSDR.

While for many suppliers there are well-established processes to deal with stock and manage shortages, we recommend that clear processes are in place for the early identification, management and reporting of supply issues. This can include:

- **Identification:** ensure you have processes in place for monitoring stock positions and supply chain performance that allow for developing issues to be identified, and escalated, at the earliest opportunity;
- **Management:** ensure that you have processes in place for the investigation and management of all supply disruption incidents and prompt escalation;
- **Reporting:** cascade the above details on how to report supply issues to members of staff as relevant.

Thank you for your continued support in the weeks and months ahead.

Yours sincerely

Professor Keith Willett

EU Exit Strategic Commander

Medical Director for Acute Care & Emergency Preparedness

Annex A: Reporting a supply disruption issue

Product category	
Medical Devices, Clinical Consumables and Non-Clinical Goods and Services	**ACTION**
	Report supply issues to your supplies department in the first instance. They will seek to resolve these issues through normal supply arrangements.
	Considerations / Notes
	Supplies departments will be able to escalate supply issues to the National Supply Disruption Response unit in the event that satisfactory resolution is not possible.
Medicines	**ACTION**
	Report via your Pharmacy Department to the specialist Regional Procurement Leads.
	Considerations / Notes
	You should continue to manage medicines supply issues as per current processes. Any medicines supply issues (regardless of whether or not they are considered to be related to EU Exit) that you are concerned about, or for which you require further assistance, should continue to be reported via your Pharmacy Department to the specialist Regional Procurement Leads.
Vaccines	**ACTION**
	Report locally procured vaccines via your Pharmacy Department to the specialist Regional Procurement Leads. For vaccines that are ordered through the ImmForm website (and centrally procured by PHE), you should continue to use existing channels when you need to replenish stock.
	Considerations / Notes
	For locally procured vaccines you should follow relevant procedures for Medicines (see above).
	ACTION

Clinical Trials	**Report to the chief investigator of the trial or investigation.**
	Considerations / Notes
	For clinical trials and clinical investigations supplies, you should seek to resolve the issue through the chief investigator of the trial or investigation. The Trial Sponsor/organisation running the trial will be able to escalate supply issues through the National Supply Disruption Response unit. If it relates to supplies being provided as part of treatment as usual and/or through normal NHS supply routes, then you should follow relevant procedures for the relevant supplies – please see above for Medical Devices and Clinical Consumables, and for Medicines.
Blood and Organs	**ACTION**
	Report issues involving blood and blood products using existing channels via your blood service. **Report issues involving organs via the usual routes through NHS Blood and Transplant**
Tissues and Cells	**ACTION**
	Report via existing channels to the Human Tissue Authority (HTA) or the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA)