

Letter from Professor Keith Willett:

Dear colleagues,

As you know, NHS England and Improvement are working closely with the Department of Health and Social Care to support and ensure the continuity of supply of medicines and medical products into the UK should we exit the EU without a deal on 31 October.

Today, the [Government has announced](#) that we will be continuing with its multi-layered approach to continuity of supply, involving a range of activities including (but not limited to) warehousing, buffer stocks and procurements for extra ferry capacity, including an express freight service for medicines and medical products.

The attached [letters to the medicines and devices industry](#) and MPs provide further details of these arrangements. They confirm the NHS' determination to minimise disruption to patient care, and support the previous work on continuity of supply from earlier this year.

We are sending this information directly to pharmacy leads too but it would be appreciated if you could share it promptly with other senior colleagues within your organisation involved in EU Exit preparations, including heads of procurement, so they are updated on the latest developments and to enable local planning. To be clear, no new actions are required of the NHS as a result of these communications – doctors and pharmacists should continue to prescribe and dispense as normal, NHS organisations should not stockpile locally, and you should continue to use business-as-usual reporting routes for shortages.

With your help we reached a high level of preparedness within the NHS in the run-up to 29 March and 12 April. As we continue to prepare for all EU Exit scenarios, including no deal, we need to be ready to build on our previous efforts in the run-up to 31 October.

To this end, NHS England and Improvement intend to run another round of regional EU Exit workshops in September to support local planning. In advance of these workshops we will be hosting a series of teleconferences during July to ensure EU Exit SROs and other senior colleagues working on local EU Exit preparations are sighted on the latest developments and any actions required in the coming months. We will be in touch with EU Exit SROs about the teleconferences shortly.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Kind regards,

Professor Keith Willett
EU Exit Strategic Commander
Medical Director for Acute Care & Emergency Preparedness
NHS England