

**From Acting Chief Pharmaceutical Officer
Mrs Cathy Harrison**



To:

Chief Executives, HSCTs
Chief Executive, HSCB (*for onward transmission to
Community Pharmacists and GPs*)
Chief Executive, BSO
Chief Executive, PHA
Chief Executive, NIBTS
Chief Executive, RQIA (*for onward transmission to all
independent providers including independent
hospitals*)

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Ref: HE1/19/156923
Date: 3 July 2019

[By email]

Dear Colleague,

The Department of Health is working closely with the Department of Health and Social Care (Lon) 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.

National plans have been reviewed and updated, and the UK [Government has announced](#) that the UK will be continuing with a 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](#) provide further details of these arrangements. They confirm determination to minimise disruption to patient care and support the previous work on continuity of supply from earlier this year. It would be appreciated if you could share promptly with those colleagues within your organisation involved in EU Exit preparations so they are updated on the latest developments and to enable local planning.

To be clear, no new actions are required of the HSC as a result of these communications – prescribers and pharmacists should continue to prescribe and dispense as normal. HSC organisations should not stockpile locally and you should continue to use business-as-usual reporting routes for shortages.

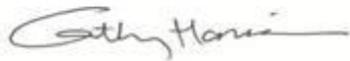
With your collective help we reached a high level of preparedness in the run-up to 29 March and 12 April. As we continue to prepare for all EU Exit scenarios, including a

'no deal' scenario, we need to be ready to build on our previous efforts in the run-up to 31 October.

To this end, the Department will continue to work with the HSC to ensure that pharmacy, EU Exit leads and other colleagues working on local EU Exit preparations are sighted on the latest developments and any actions required in the coming months.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Cathy Harrison

Links to documents referenced above:

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2019-06-26/HCWS1661/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/medicines-and-medical-products-continuity-of-supply-update>