

Brexit and medicine shortages

As you may be aware, Matt Hancock Secretary of State for Health and Social Care has written to colleagues regarding Brexit and the supply of medicines.

National contingency plans have been developed by the Government, who are working with manufacturers to ensure a continued supply of medicines in the event of a 'No Deal'.

In summary:

- Companies have been asked to ensure they have a minimum of six weeks' additional supply in the UK, over and above their business as usual operational buffer stocks, by 29 March 2019 to prepare for a possible 'No Deal' scenario
- UK-wide contingency plan also contains other measures, including arrangements for the air freight of medicines with a short shelf life
- The Government are working to support manufacturers taking part in the contingency planning. Part of this support will include funding to provide additional capacity for the storage of medicines.

IMPORTANT MESSAGES

The Government have asked that **healthcare providers do not stockpile medicines** and there is **no need for clinicians to issue longer prescriptions** as this could lead to shortages. Likewise it has been requested that **patients do not stockpile medicines at home**.

A collection of information and guidance (including Matt Hancock's letters) for the health and care sector about Brexit can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/information-for-the-health-and-care-sector-about-planning-for-a-potential-no-deal-brexit>

January 2019