Dear colleague

**Exit from the European Union in the event of a no deal: Plans for supply of medicines**

I am writing to update you on plans to mitigate risks associated with medicines supply issues in the event that there is a ‘no deal’ exit from the European Union on 29 March 2019.

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (NHSGGC) Pharmacy Services are working with Scottish Government and with all other UK Administrations to minimise the risks associated with medicines supply problems, if the UK leaves the EU without a deal. This includes working with pharmaceutical companies to support them to create buffer stocks of medicines where appropriate. Arrangements are also being made to transport medicines into the UK, including by air, where this is not additional buffers stocks cannot be held by the pharmaceutical company. Attached is a recent letter from the Chief Medical officer and Chief Pharmaceutical Officer which explains more about these arrangements.

As you are aware, medicines supply problems and shortages may occur at any time and NHSGGC Pharmacy Services have established processes for dealing with these in both Acute and Primary Care. This includes regular bulletins to acute prescribers where a change in product is required and advice for community pharmacists where they are unable to supply a specific medicine to a patient. The NHSGGC Pharmacy Team has been reviewing these arrangements to make sure they are as robust as possible and have introduced a number of changes to improve communication and information on supply problems as they happen. We are also liaising with colleagues nationally to make sure we can share any intelligence on supply problems as quickly as possible and work together to identify solutions. Where a medicine is in short supply, often another supplier, pack size or formulation can be sourced but in some cases, where this is not possible, we may seek advice from clinical specialists about a suitable clinical alternative. Clinical specialists in NHSGGC have a track record of responding to these requests for advice quickly and effectively and we are seeking your support to continue this arrangement regardless of the outcome on the current negotiations.

I hope that this provides some reassurance that suitable plans are in place. Patients, GPs, community pharmacies and hospitals have been asked not stockpile as this can cause further risks to the stability of the medicines supply chain. I

If you have any specific questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with any member of your local pharmacy team.

