

Core brief

Wednesday, 03 April 2019

Introduction

This issue is a message from the Brexit Readiness Steering Group.

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NHSGGC is working hard to prepare for the outcome of the current EU exit negotiations. As the planned departure date approaches NHSGGC's Brexit Readiness Steering Group is working closely with national groups and the Scottish Government in detailed planning around many aspects of an EU exit which might have an immediate and direct effect on the health service.

Whilst we are hopeful arrangements can be agreed to avoid a no deal departure we are assuming a no deal departure for the purposes of planning.

A range of measures have been put in place to minimise any impact on the supply of goods and medicines to the NHS, including:

- Existing policies and procedure to manage medicines shortages within Pharmacy Services have been reviewed and reinforced
- Stocks of commonly used medical supplies (typically provided via the NDC) have been increased at national warehouses
- Suppliers have advised on their readiness, including national planning for buffer stocks of medicines by pharmaceutical companies
- Additional shipping channels to by-pass any disruption at UK ports have been established
- A UK support service where critical supply shortages of medical supplies can be referred to for resolution has been established
- NHS Scotland has establishing a co-ordinated approach to supporting Health Boards resolve supply issues.

The advice remains that wards and departments should retain their local working stocks at the normal optimum levels and not to run-down stocks towards the end of the financial year.

For medicines, in most clinical areas ward top up is undertaken by the pharmacy team; previously agreed stock levels should be adhered to. If you have any concerns about supplies of medicines please contact your local pharmacy team who will escalate to PDC if required.

For other medical supplies, staff are asked to retain optimum levels in conjunction with the WPM service. If you are concerned about any critical products you have delivered direct from suppliers that

are fast moving or delivered at very short notice please email Procurement Customer Services helpdesk: support@ggcprocurementcustomerservices.zendesk.com

Wards and departments are reminded that they must not stock pile. We have limited space and excess stocks may impact on health and safety. Unnecessary additional demand impacts on the smooth flow of goods and does not increase overall supply available to the NHS but could in itself cause local shortages in the supply chain.

We greatly value the contribution of all our staff and recognise that many have a number of professional and personal concerns and questions following the UKs decision to leave the EU. When we get more information we will update, but if we can assist in the meantime please get in touch, email: nhsggc.brexit@ggc.scot.nhs.uk.

We are currently organising a series of information events for staff in conjunction with our Brexit Support Worker from the newly setup service through Citizens Advice Scotland. If you would like to register for an event please email: nhsggc.brexit@ggc.scot.nhs.uk and we will advise of arrangements as soon as possible.

[Click here to access information issued by today the Scottish Government: Exit from the European Union in the event of a no deal: Plans for supply of medicines.](#)

Are your contact details up-to-date? [Click here](#) to check