

We are following the Department of Health and Social care's (DHSC) advice regarding the supply of medicines to the NHS in the event of a "no deal" EU exit.

GPs have been instructed that they should not write longer or additional NHS prescriptions and to advise patients that they will not need to and should not store additional medicines at home.

This is to ensure that medicines supply is effectively managed across the NHS.

The Government's contingency planning has been shared with us and we have been informed that work is well advanced across all areas of the medicines supply chain. A summary of the key work underway is outlined below.

- The government has requested that medicines manufacturers and suppliers ensure there is a 6 week stockpile of prescription only medicines and pharmacy medicines (i.e. those sold in community pharmacies).
- The DHSC has secured additional warehouse space for stockpiled medicines, including refrigerated storage.
- The government has reviewed transport of medicines into the UK and have plans to prioritise medicines supply via alternative routes to maximise the capacity for supply to continue after 29th March 2019.
- The government has put in place a "serious shortage protocol" with community pharmacies, which will reduce unnecessary input from GPs, when a safe alternative may be provided by a community pharmacist. An example of this may be switching from a tablet to capsule formulation of the same medicine.

We understand that there is much uncertainty around Brexit including medication and the uninterrupted supply of your medicine/s is extremely important, please support us, so that the likelihood of medicine supply issues are minimised across the country.