

Advice on EU exit

As EU Exit news continues to be a prominent feature in the headlines and we approach the end of the Transition phase, it's important to keep in mind that it's 'business as usual' for the NHS. We have prepared some useful advice and guidance for our colleagues and patients, which may help with any queries.

The government, NHS and PHE have been working together to ensure medicines and vaccines will be available as needed after the UK leaves the EU. Medicines and vaccines brought in from the EU are covered by the Government's contingency plans; can be imported at short notice including air freight for products with a short shelf life.

Medicines and vaccines, medical devices and clinical and non-clinical consumables should not be stockpiled beyond business as usual levels. The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), continues to engage directly with industry suppliers, trade associations, NHS Providers and other government departments to develop its contingency planning approach and ensure continued supply.

Our Workforce team have been supporting our EU Citizens colleagues in relation to the Settlement Scheme, which is available until June 2021. Any staff who require support with this process are encouraged to contact EU settled status scheme oxl-tr.eusettlement@nhs.net for advice and guidance.

All staff and patients who are considering travelling abroad, the overriding advice from the UK Government is to take out adequate travel insurance to cover any medical emergencies. After the UK leaves the EU, European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) cards may not be valid. Please see link for further information: [Healthcare when travelling abroad - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk) Healthcare cover will change for EU citizens who visit the UK after 31 December 2020 and whose country does not have a reciprocal healthcare agreement with the UK. Those visitors will be charged for accessing NHS healthcare, unless it is a service that would be free of charge for everyone, or they are exempt from charging.

Staff and patients involved in clinical trials and other research should not be concerned about the potential impacts of EU Exit. The NHS and the Government is working with organisations running clinical trials to ensure that research continues as normal in the coming months.

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) will still apply after the UK leaves the EU. Steps are being put in place by NHS organisations to ensure any patient data transfers are able to continue uninterrupted.

All information published by the DHSC and other parts of Government on EU Exit can be viewed on www.gov.uk

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