



EU exit update - Midlands region

25 September 2019

Hello and welcome to the NHS EU exit bulletin

Dear colleagues,

Thank you for either attending or sending people to our regional workshops.



You'll be aware of our continuing focus on preparing for a possible no deal withdrawal from the EU on 31 October. We briefed you at the workshops about the actions that are needed across a range of areas including medicines, medical products, non-clinical goods and services, workforce, and so on. Please make sure to use this to check your local health and social care partner preparations.

Our assurance process is well underway and you should by now all have received a request – issued through your regional EU Exit teams after your workshop – to complete an assurance template. This template is vital to enable us to understand levels of preparedness and where further support is needed and we intend to review the information we've received from you w/c 30 September.

We'll be continuing to review the need for further guidance and clarifications in the coming weeks. I made it clear at the workshops for instance that you could expect to see further announcements relating to reciprocal care and cost recovery and as you'll note below, that has started to come through in recent days.

Our stakeholder engagement is continuing as we build awareness and understanding of our preparations. Yesterday we ran an event with the Department and the NHS Confederation for independent sector healthcare providers. And we'll continue to run meetings and teleconferences for royal colleges, patient groups and charities and other key partners.

Thank you for everything you're doing to get the NHS ready.

Professor Keith Willett

EU Exit Strategic Commander

Medical Director for Acute Care & Emergency Preparedness

EU exit news

Updated operational guidance from DHSC

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has published updated operational guidance for healthcare providers and commissioners on GOV.UK. Check out the guidance [here](#).

Healthcare funding for UK nationals abroad

The [government has stated](#) it will provide support to around 180,000 UK nationals living in the EU who currently have their healthcare costs paid for by the UK for a 6-month period following exit day. This includes pensioners, students, those on disability benefits and UK workers temporarily posted in the EU.

The government has also committed to covering the costs of UK nationals in the EU who are in the middle of treatment when we leave the EU, for up to a year. The government will also provide cover during the time it takes to be registered with a local healthcare scheme. This is to ensure people are not exposed to gaps in healthcare coverage and potentially high costs while they register for healthcare locally. The NHS Business Services Authority (BSA) is [writing to UK nationals living in the EU](#) to make them aware of the information they need in the country they live in.

Reciprocal healthcare arrangements with Spain after EU Exit

The Department of Health and Social Care has confirmed that Spanish citizens will continue to be able to access healthcare as they do now until at least December 2020, should we leave the EU without a deal.

The Spanish government has published a Royal Decree which enables healthcare access for UK nationals living in or visiting Spain to continue after Brexit, provided the UK does the same for Spanish nationals in the UK. The necessary legal steps have been taken in the UK, meaning that visitors from Spain will be able to use their Spanish-issued EHIC, S1 or S2 form after 31 October 2019.

Communicating about EU Exit

Sessions to update heads of communication from CCGs, trusts and other local NHS organisations on EU Exit preparations and the associated communication activities have been continuing this week. Please make sure to touch base with your communication teams about what you can do locally to get messages to front-line staff within your organisations and public and patients.

Contact

If you have any questions or concerns about local preparations please send these to your regional EU Exit lead using the regional point of contact which is england.mids-euexit@nhs.net

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PO Box 16738
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For further information, please contact:
england.mids-euexit@nhs.net

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