



Brexit update - October 2019

On 8 October Matt Hancock, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, released a statement on his department's preparations for a 'no-deal' exit from the European Union. It provides some high-level details of supply chain plans, but no specific actions for general practice.

At the end of September, the National Audit Office (NAO) released its report 'Exiting the EU: supplying the health and social care sectors'. Key points from the NAO on 'no-deal' EU exit preparations include:

Of the 12,300 prescription-only and over-the-counter medicines used in the UK, 7,000 come from or via the EU and the vast majority use the short Channel crossings [Calais or Dunkirk to Dover].

More than half the clinical consumables the UK uses come from, or via, the EU and the vast majority use the short Channel crossings.

Half of all supplies for clinical trials come from or via the EU, and half of those (25% of the total) come through the short Channel crossings.

72% of medicine product lines have at least six weeks' worth of supplies stockpiled and for 25% of medicine product lines suppliers have secured freight capacity away from the short Channel crossings.

DHSC does not know what proportion of social care providers have followed its stockpiling advice. 80% of care home providers operate a single care home [creating issues of physical, financial and administrative capacity for procuring and storing additional supplies].

The full NAO report is [here](#).

The NAO report summary is [here](#).