

IHPN all-member call 11 November 2020 debrief

Key points

Brexit:

- We held a well-attended Brexit session with Professor Keith Willett (NHSE) and David Simmonds (DHSC).
- Independent sector supplies are fully factored into plans for continuity of supply in the event of disruption to cross-border trade
- Independent providers will be fully able to access national escalation routes for issues caused by a no-deal Brexit
- Further details will be circulated in a slide pack from NHSE/DHSC once it has been signed off for distribution
- Key practical points are:
 - All healthcare organisations should appoint an SRO for EU exit who should be on the Board or operating at Board level
 - 'Walk the floor' of relevant facilities to identify areas of potential vulnerability to movement of people or goods (e.g. maintenance contracts with engineers from continental Europe)
 - Review and refresh Business Continuity Plans

Vaccines programme:

- We have engaged at senior level with the vaccine mobilisation and roll-out teams at NHSE in anticipate of potential COVID-19 vaccination programmes.
- We have registered the point that independent provider staff should be prioritised alongside their counterparts in the NHS and care sectors when vaccines become available
- We will be working with the team to clarify how the independent sector can contribute to the programme with its resources of clinical staff and facilities – more details will become available over the coming weeks.

Reminders from the last week:

NHS publish letter on asymptomatic staff testing

NHS England have published a [letter](#) confirming that asymptomatic testing will be made available to all patient-facing NHS staff, allowing them to test themselves at home twice a week with results available before coming into work. IHPN are currently liaising with NHS England to confirm this also applies to independent sector staff delivering NHS services.

Independent sector access to Remdesivir

As members will be aware, access to Remdesivir is currently restricted, however in the rare event that an independent sector provider requires access to the drug, a process has been agreed whereby the manufacturer needs to be contacted for supply. The process has been shared with your Chief Pharmacists, and should you encounter any problems please contact the Independent Chief Pharmacists at independent@chiefpharmacists.com who can also assist.