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Dear colleagues,

On Friday 29 March, Parliament voted against the Withdrawal Agreement, meaning that our exit from the European Union remains 11pm (UK time) on 12 April 2019.

Therefore, we have been advised that the Government direction for the NHS is that **we should now plan for the possibility of a no deal scenario on 12 April**, as the Government agreed to an extension of the Article 50 period.

Please continue the work you have underway to prepare your organisation for the scenario of leaving the EU without a deal and do not wind down your contingency plans. You need to re-programme your preparations to be ready for 12 April.

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), NHS England and NHS Improvement will continue to work on their no deal contingency plans. DHSC have written in similar terms to all other organisations in the health and care system to ask them to continue their plans.

I am very grateful for all your hard work over the last few months - our plans are well advanced as a result. While we never give guarantees, if everyone – including suppliers, freight companies, international partners, and the health and care system - does what they need to do, the supply of medicines and medical products should be uninterrupted in the event of exiting the EU without a deal.

I will update you as soon as I have further information. In the meantime, please cascade this message as appropriate to your staff and partners.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Keith Willett
EU Exit Strategic Commander
Medical Director for Acute Care & Emergency Preparedness