

Publications Gateway Reference: 03088

To: Chief Executives of NHS Acute Trusts
and Foundation Trusts

Chief Executives of NHS Ambulance
Service Trusts and Foundation Trusts

Cc: NHS England Regional Directors

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27 February 2015

Dear Colleague

EPRR: UK Reserve National Stock for Major Incidents – How to access stock in England

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the arrangements in England for the NHS to access the UK reserve national stock for major chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) incidents.

Following the terrorist attacks in the USA in 2001, the four UK Health Departments agreed to establish stockpiles of drugs and equipment that are placed at strategic locations within England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The stockpiles would be used for mutual support in the event of a deliberate or accidental release of CBRN materials.

This process supersedes and replaces the *Department of Health Emergency Planning: UK Reserve National Stock for Major Incidents – How to Access Stock* guidance (Gateway Reference Number: 13611) which was published in February 2010.

The arrangements described in Appendix One detail the process to be followed in the event that access to the stockpiles is required by the NHS in England.

In all instances that access to the stockpile is required; the NHS England National EPRR Duty Officer is to be informed through normal escalation channels.

I would be grateful if you could make arrangements for the details in Appendix One to be made available in your local EPRR policies and on-call handbooks.

If you require any further information please contact the NHS England National EPRR Team by email (england.epr@nhs.net).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr Sarah Pinto-Duschinsky'.

Dr Sarah Pinto-Duschinsky
Director of NHS Operations and Delivery

Appendix One: UK Reserve National Stock for Major Incidents – How to Access Stock

A. NHS Trusts, NHS Foundation Trusts and NHS England Regional Teams should access the following items by contacting their local NHS Ambulance Service Trust Emergency Control Room

- 1. Nerve agent antidote pod – for treatment of nerve agent poisoning (90 people).**
- 2. Obidoxime injection – further treatment for nerve agent poisoning.**
- 3. Dicobalt edetate pod – for treatment of cyanide poisoning (90 people).**
- 4. Botulinum antitoxin – for treatment of botulism.**

NHS Ambulance Services in England either initiating their own requests or responding to requests from NHS Trusts, NHS Foundation Trusts or NHS England Regional Teams should contact NHS Blood and Transplant as follows:

Primary number: 0208 201 3827

Secondary number: 0845 850 0911

The NHS England EPRR Duty Officer must be informed via **0844 822 2888** and ask for **‘NHS 05’**

B. NHS Trusts, NHS Foundation Trusts and NHS England Regional Teams should access the following items through the NHS England EPRR Duty Officer:

Primary number: 0844 822 2888 ask for ‘NHS 05’

Secondary number: 0845 000 5555

Callers should clearly give the details of the incident, the number of pods requested and their contact details

- 1. Antibiotic pods (oral ciprofloxacin) – three types of pod available**

To treat 250 adults and children aged 12 years and above (using 500mg tablets), or 250 children aged 8-less than 12 years (using 250mg tablets) or 50 children aged 0-less than 8 years (using 250mg suspension), for 10 days, with post exposure prophylaxis for anthrax, plague or tularaemia.

2. Further stocks of unpodded oral ciprofloxacin and doxycycline

To treat post exposure prophylaxis for anthrax, plague or tularaemia.

3. Ciprofloxacin intravenous injection

For post exposure treatment of anthrax, plague or tularaemia.

4. Gentamicin intravenous/intramuscular injection

For post exposure treatment of plague.

5. Potassium iodate tablets

To block the uptake of radioactive iodine, plus information leaflets for the public.

6. Prussian blue capsules

For the treatment of thallium and caesium poisoning.

7. Naloxone injection

For the treatment of opioid poisoning.

The decision to request any of these medical supplies should be made in consultation with the Health Protection Consultant from the local Public Health England (PHE) Centre and/or the local Director of Public Health