

To: All GPs in England.
Pathology Incident Directors
Trust Chief Executives
Trust EPRR leads
Trust Medical Directors
Trust Directors of Nursing
Trust Procurement leads
CCG Accountable Officers
CCG EPRR leads
CCG Medical leads
CCG Procurement leads
CCG Directors of Nursing
ICS leads
STP leads

NHS England and NHS Improvement
Skipton House
80 London Road
London
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8 October 2021

Dear Colleague

Becton Dickinson blood specimen collection - supply disruption

We are writing to update you in relation to the supply disruption to Becton Dickinson's (BD) blood specimen collection portfolio, further to our letter sent on 16 September.

Due to the mitigations in place and the efforts of colleagues across the NHS the supply situation has stabilised but with supplies not yet back at normal levels. To reflect the current position, and to avoid putting further pressure on stock, as the situation continues to recover, the following changes to the guidance issued on 16 September can take place from today:

- Testing activity in acute trusts, community hospitals and mental health trusts, in line with the [best practice guidance](#) can, local stocks permitting, resume.
- GP teams should continue to follow the [best practice guidance](#).
- The situation reporting established for acute trusts, community hospitals and mental health trusts will now move to a weekly collection, taking place on Tuesdays.
- Organisations are reminded to continue to order little and often during this period of recovery and to restock gradually. Organisations should regularly review their stock holding and upcoming planned care requirements and aim to re-stock with one week's worth of tubes based on demand in June and July 2021.

All these measures should be undertaken where safe to do so, using your clinical judgement at all times to ensure patient wellbeing.

National supplies will continue to be managed via NHS Supply Chain, this will continue until further notice.

If your organisation, for any reason is struggling to obtain sufficient stock levels, please contact your local pathology network. In turn, networks can raise with [NHS Supply](#)

[Chain](#). Unresolved issues and critical shortages should be escalated via your regional EPRR team. GPs that receive supply through PCSE should continue to do so.

Thank you for your continued efforts for our patients.

Yours faithfully,



Professor Stephen Powis

National Medical Director

NHS England and NHS
Improvement



Mark Cubbon

Interim Chief Operating
Officer

NHS England and NHS
Improvement



Dr Nikita Kanani

Medical Director for Primary
Care

NHS England and NHS
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