

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
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Dear Colleague

Becton Dickinson blood specimen collection - supply disruption

We are writing, further to our letter sent on 8 October, to update you in relation to the supply disruption to Becton Dickinson's (BD) blood specimen collection portfolio.

Due to the mitigations in place and the efforts of colleagues across the NHS the supply situation has continued to improve. Although there is some constraint on supply, the use of BD US stock continues to ease pressure. We are now able to advise of the following:

- The [best practice guidance](#) will shortly be updated to reflect the current supply position. Restrictions placed on testing, to help safely manage demand during the disruption, will be removed. This also applies to GP teams who should continue to follow the [best practice guidance](#).
- Organisations will be able to return to ordering routes that were in place before the supply disruption for all tubes. This means that organisations that previously ordered directly from BD will be able to do so again.
- Organisations which are currently using BD US products should continue to use these products, purchased through NHS Supply Chain, even if they previously ordered directly from BD. We would like to thank these organisations for their ongoing contribution in supporting the national supply resilience for these products. The use of the BD US products continues to ease supply pressure, their use will be phased out over time as the supply position continues to improve. Organisations using BD US products should not revert to UK supply until advised to do so.
- Organisations can begin the process of returning slowly to business as usual stock levels. However please stagger this over a period of 6 weeks as significantly larger than usual orders could potentially create additional constraint on supply.

- Situation reporting on stock levels and demand can be stood down.

If, for any reason, your organisation is struggling to obtain sufficient stock, please contact your supplier (so if ordering from BD directly, please contact BD in the first instance). If the problem cannot be resolved, please contact your local pathology network.

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
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