Prioritising patient safety and public health across Europe post- Brexit: Key questions for discussion

Overview

On 21 February 2018, a Coaltion of Brussels based health stakeholders held a joint meeting to discuss how to prioritise patient safety and public health in the Article 50 negotiations on the future relationship between the UK and the EU.

During the event, each speaker posed three questions of importance which would need resolving in the negotiations. This document captures those key qestions.

Key priorities: Nicola Bedlington, European Patients Forum

- How will a trade agreement ensure sufficient and timely supply of medicines and medical devices for both EU and UK patients?
- How will continued partnership on medical research be continued in order to enable innovative research to be conducted across the UK and the EU?
- In the event of a 'no deal' Brexit, how would EU27 national governments avoid that public health be affected across the EU?

Public Health: Fiona Godfrey, European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)

- How will the EU and the UK ensure there is no race to the bottom on public health protections?
- How will the EU and the UK ensure that their citizens continue to have consistent access to affordable necessary medicines?
- How will the EU and the UK minimise Brexit's impact on efforts to provide what is needed for sustainable and healthy lives?

Access to medicines and medical technologies: Mark Lloyd Davies, Senior Director, Government Affairs & Policy at Johnson & Johnson[1]

- How to secure Regulatory Alignment. Close cooperation and mutual recognition on the regulation of medicines and medical technologies between the UK and the EU be achieved in the interests of patients and public health. Include mutual recognition of the Batch Testing and Quality Testing of medicines, diagnostics and technologies as well as agreed inspection standards for Good Manufacturing Practices
- How to secure seamless trade between the EU and UK to avoid disruptions in the manufacturing and supply of medicines and medical technologies. This should include zero Non-Tariff and Tariff Barriers at custom border checks
- How to ensure the highest standards of patient safety. Through the UK's participation in EU data sharing systems, pharmacovigilance and all related databases.

[1] Representing the life science industry

Access to medicines and medical technologies: Cathalijne van Doorne, Vice President, European Federation of Neurological Associations (EFNA)

- What areas will be deprioritised by the EMA and how can we compensate for this? No patient group should be left behind!
- How will the MRHA's workload be redistributed to avoid undue delay?
- Will safety standards be guaranteed?

Research and innovation: Catherine Guinard, Cancer Research UK

- The UK and the EU must come to an agreement to ensure the UK can adopt and align with the EU Clinical Trials Regulation, for the benefit of patients in the UK and the EU.
- The UK and the EU must come to an agreement to ensure the future drug licensing system does not exacerbate delays in access to the most innovative treatments for patients, both in the UK and across the EU.
- The UK Government must design an immigration system that enables us to attract, recruit and retain global scientific talent at all professional levels.

Mobility for patients and health care professionals: Pascal Garel, Executive Director, HOPE

- What will happen in future to EU/UK citizens moving in the UK and across internal EU borders?
- Impact on patients if Phase 2 talks collapse (as Phase 1 agreement is not ringfenced)?
- Will qualifications obtained in the EU27 or the UK before Brexit, but not recognised, be automatically recognised if the qualification holder moves across the EU/UK border after Brexit?

Mobility for patients and health care professionals: Matt Bolz-Johnson, Healthcare and Research Director, EURORDIS

- How can EU and UK patients benefit from the pooling of scarce expertise in rare and complex diseases under European Reference Networks?
- How can we creating the critical mass of expertise, patients and their data in 'ready-made communities' attracting investment in the EU & UK market, accelerate research and therapeutic innovation development?
- How will Brexit secure a safe and sustainable supra-specialised workforce through ERNs cross-border training and education activities?