

Brexit and our future health: Time is of the essence



Health must be a priority in the future relationship negotiations during 2020.

The withdrawal agreement has been ratified and the UK now has until the end of this year to define its future relationship with the EU. This represents a short timescale to conclude not only a trade deal with the EU, but also agreements across many other aspects of how we will work with our neighbours in the future.

The Brexit Health Alliance is concerned that the safety and health of patients and citizens could be overlooked during negotiations. We are asking for health to be one of the top priorities in the UK's negotiating mandate and for the health community to have a seat at the table alongside business, in the development of trade policy and negotiations.

We are calling for rapid agreements as early as possible to address five key areas:

Patient safety

Shared regulatory frameworks to continue for medicines and medical technologies across the UK and the EU, so that patients are guaranteed a high level of safety and rapid access to new treatments, and public health and wellbeing are protected.

Access to medicines and medical devices

Continued cooperation in import and export of medicines and medical technologies for frictionless trade of health products across UK/EU borders.

Citizens' rights to treatment

UK and EU citizens to continue to benefit from rights to healthcare in any of the EU member states, ensuring simple and safe access to treatment when working, living or travelling, at local, affordable cost.

Furthering medical research

Continued participation in a Europe-wide system that encourages cooperation, innovation and research to continually improve patients' options for treatment. Continued UK-EU collaboration is vital to retain Europe's reputation as an attractive destination for cutting-edge research.

Public health

Continued close coordination between the UK and EU on public health and wellbeing. Participation in key EU data-sharing platforms and alert systems to exchange information and early warnings about health threats to ensure maximum preparedness to tackle them.



Find out more about the Brexit Health Alliance and read about our priorities to protect patients after Brexit in full on the **Brexit Health Alliance web pages**.