

Statement

The impact on healthcare after Brexit

6th March 2018

The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges cautiously welcomes the Prime Minister's comments on the regulation of medicines and devices in her [speech on Brexit](#) on Friday 2nd March.

The challenges faced by the healthcare sector in relation to the regulation and continued supply of life-saving medicines and medical devices after the United Kingdom leaves the European Union are of great concern to those who are responsible for patient care.

While the fine detail is not yet apparent, the speech did provide a glimmer of hope in that some of the issues thrown up following the referendum result regarding the likely impact on the NHS are at least now being considered by politicians and policy makers. If regulatory alignment does proceed on the basis now being suggested it may be that the most concerning impacts of Brexit relating to patient safety can be mitigated.

Professor Alan Boyd, President of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine, who leads the Academy's work on Brexit and medicines regulation said, 'The suggestion that we may remain part of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) does at least go some way to reassuring all of those who have great concerns about the unwillingness of some senior politicians to engage on this issue. We are by no means out of the woods yet. Continued membership of Euratom, which ensures the regulation and supply of radio isotopes to treat cancer patients wasn't mentioned nor was the continuation of an uninterrupted supply of medicines without tariffs, that could have a huge impact on the cost of care.

We will be happy to help flesh out how engagement with the EMA could work in practice, but also continue to work with Ministers to make sure they fully understand the impact that Brexit could have on patients across the UK and what potential solutions could be.'

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