



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*From the Lord O'Shaughnessy
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health (Lords)*

39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

020 7210 4850

PO-1144497

03 SEP 2018

Ms Fiona Loud
Policy Director, Kidney Care UK
3 The Windmills
St Mary's Close, Turk Street
Alton GU34 1EF

Dear Ms Loud

Thank you for your letter of 5 August to Matt Hancock about the UK leaving the EU.

I appreciate your concerns and am grateful to you for taking the time to raise these with me.

I want to assure you that our commitment to ensuring that patients have safe and timely access to medicines remains unchanged. We know that maintaining continuity of supply of all medical products, including medicines, medical radioisotopes, vaccines, blood products, devices and consumables, after the UK leaves the EU is essential.

The Department is working with its partners across Government, in the health sector and in industry to prepare for any possible disruption in the supply chain. While this does not mean that we are expecting such disruption, the Government is preparing for all exit scenarios.

We understand that patients' medicines are vitally important to them. Our contingency plans include sensible strategies for medicines that come to the UK from or through the EU, such as precautionary stockpiling by suppliers, to ensure that the supply of essential medicines to patients is not disrupted.

Turning to your concerns about the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), I appreciate what an important scheme this is for patients who need dialysis. As you are aware, EHIC is an EU initiative, and it is therefore not possible to guarantee that the UK will continue to take part in this scheme after the UK leaves the EU. As long

as we are a member of the EU we will respect the rights and obligations of EU membership, including the current arrangements for the EHIC scheme.

During the EU withdrawal negotiations, we are seeking to protect the healthcare arrangements currently set out in EU Regulations 883/2004 and 987/2009. In a reciprocal deal, the UK will seek to protect the ability of eligible individuals, before a specified date, to continue to benefit from free or reduced-cost healthcare while on a temporary stay in the EU, should the need arise.

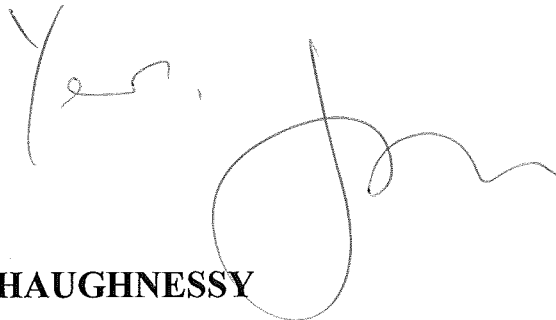
The UK will also seek an ongoing arrangement similar to the EHIC scheme as part of the negotiations.

You may also wish to raise your concerns directly with the Department for Exiting the European Union (DExEU). The contact details are:

9 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AS

Contact form: <https://email.dex.eu.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/>

I hope this reply is helpful.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yes, James O'Shaughnessy', written over the printed name.

JAMES O'SHAUGHNESSY