

PPE Update from Dr Richard Vautrey, Chair of BMA GP (England) Committee – 26 March 2020

We have finally secured some action in delivering PPE to practices. The messaging on the helpline should have changed. Some of you may have heard this in the NHSEI primary care webinar this evening. I've been provided with this update:

- The National Supply Disruption Response was designed to deal with supply disruption in the event of no-deal exit. It is designed to support management of disruption across 6x continuity of supply workstreams
 - Medicines
 - Bloods, Tissues and Organs
 - Substances of Human Origin
 - Clinical Trials
 - Non clinical goods and services
 - Medical Devices and Clinical Consumables
 - Of which PPE is a category.
- The disruption currently being experienced in light of COVID-19 is highly focussed around PPE at present; and so they are doing their best to flex the system to respond most effectively.
- In the past few weeks Government issued some free 'push' deliveries of GP kits (300 Type IIR facemasks; 400 aprons; 300 pairs gloves) as an initial support response
- Additional stock was then placed with distributors and wholesalers (such as Phoenix/ DCC Vital/ Williams) to enable GP practices to order through their BAU routes.
- NHSEI and DHSC are working with the military to enable swift movement from pandemic stockpiles into distribution centres to fulfil demand.
- For more immediate short term issues NSDR are able to issue 'pre-packed kits' with a minimum of (100 Type IIR facemasks; 100 aprons and 100 pairs of gloves) within 72 hours.
- **Primary care providers who raise requests for kits through NSDR must to be able to make arrangements to receive emergency delivery of these 'pre-packed kits' outside of business hours.**
- The National Supply Disruption Response [24/7](#) telephone helpline [0800 915 9964](tel:08009159964)
- Providers who have raised requests for emergency orders and then not been available to receive deliveries are compromising their ability to be responsive.
- They are focussed on providing swift responses; to e.g. meet gaps until scheduled deliveries arrive; and until orders with wholesalers through BAU are back up and running.