



“Brexit means Brexit”

but for the NHS it means implications for:

Budget

The annual funding of the NHS depends on the performance of the economy, with leading economists concerned Brexit could lead to an economic downturn. The Health Foundation has estimated that the NHS budget in England could be £2.8bn lower than currently planned by 2019/20. The repercussions will be felt by NHS Wales.



How can we ensure the NHS budget is not negatively impacted in the event of an economic slowdown?

Research

UK organisations are the largest beneficiary of EU health research funds, bringing well over €300 million into the UK since 2014. Under Horizon 2020, Wales has secured around €45 million for 95 projects as of May 2016, with Welsh Higher Education accounting for approximately €28.5 million of this total. EU collaborative research opportunities help the NHS speed up the translation of medical discoveries into healthcare provision.



How can we ensure the NHS continues to take an active part in EU collaborative research and that it remains an attractive place for globally renowned researchers?

Employment

In September 2015 there were 1,139 EU nationals directly employed by the NHS in Wales, with 6.43% of doctors EU citizens. In Wales the life sciences sector employs around 11,000 people based at more than 350 companies and delivers a turnover of circa £2 billion per year.



How can we reduce uncertainty for EU staff currently employed by the NHS and ensure sustainable future workforce supply post-Brexit?

X-border healthcare

More than 27 million Britons have European Health Insurance Cards (EHIC) facilitating immediate access to healthcare when abroad. More than 1.2 million UK citizens living in the EU, including UK pensioners who choose to retire to Europe, are entitled to healthcare abroad.



How can we ensure NHS patients continue to receive safe and seamless healthcare when they travel across borders for holidays, studies or to live abroad?

Innovation

Having a single EU medical regulation system has enabled new health technologies to be brought to market sooner for the benefit of patients. Across the UK the NHS leads 1/4 of the new European Reference Networks, which improve diagnosis and treatment for rare and complex diseases.



How can we maintain the UK and NHS as world leaders in medical innovation, allowing patients to benefit from early access to new treatments?

Trials

As clinical trials are regulated by EU rules, uncertainty has emerged around the future NHS participation in multi-national trials. Over 600,000 patients across the UK were recruited onto clinical studies by NHS organisations last year, and the National Institute for Social Care and Health Research is now based in Wales.



How can we ensure Health Boards and patients continue to participate in EU clinical trials, allowing them to develop and access innovative, high quality healthcare?

