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To:

Chief executives of acute trusts in England

NHS regional directors in England

Regional medical directors

Dear colleague

National procurement, allocation and distribution of ventilators

The Department of Health and Social Care and wider Government are working with the NHS to secure significant extra ventilators for the nation at a time when there is huge global demand.

They and we are continuing to procure many more devices that meet the needed specifications, as well as using all other avenues such as:

- New UK manufacturers of current models
- Redeployment of ventilators from other sectors
- Promising innovations in ventilator design

In addition, nearly 1,200 ventilators will be available in the private hospitals that we have just contracted as additional capacity.

We recognise that some trusts, despite national efforts to source these devices, continue to be active in this market. We would however discourage this at this time, to avoid any risk of the NHS in effect bidding against itself in these globally competitive procurements.

As these extra ventilators become available we will coordinate distribution via regional teams who will work with local health systems.

We will deploy the devices to areas with the most immediate need, on a fair share basis relative to patient ventilation need. We will aim to ensure that there is an equal distribution of both conventional and specifically made devices.

We will also provide a 'starter pack' of consumables with each bundle of ventilators and monitors. This is intended to enable the devices to be used immediately and allow time for trusts to assess and secure their specific consumable requirements.

NHS Supply Chain is ordering significant quantities of relevant consumables to increase supplies that can be used.



We will work to minimise the number of different types of machines provided to reduce training requirements where possible. Where we are aware that trusts use specific manufacturers of devices, we will attempt to ensure continuity, however we will not delay or skew the distribution of machines on this basis.

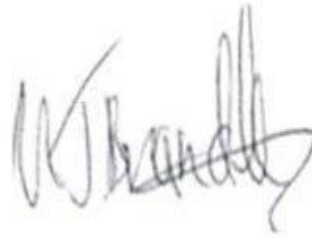
Yours sincerely



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