



To: Acute trust:

- CEOs
- COOs
- medical directors
- heads of procurement
- heads of EPRR
- materials management teams
- pharmacy leads

NHS England

Wellington House

133-155 Waterloo Road

London

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20 February 2026

cc. • Regional deputy directors of EPRR
• Regional medical directors

ICB:

- EPRR leads
- medical directors
- procurement leads

Dear colleagues

Update on Heraeus Medical – bone cement products – and return required by 5pm today, Friday 20 February

You will have received the letter on 18 February from NHS England and DHSC entitled [Heraeus Medical – bone cement products](#). These products are used for cemented Arthroplasty and Trauma Fracture Neck of Femur Surgery.

Given that disruption to the supply chain might last for a number of weeks, we must all do what we can to maintain safe services to patients and work hard to minimise cancellations wherever possible.

Patients expecting procedures such as a knee replacement that will be affected by this issue have often waited some time for their operation, so it is essential we all do whatever we can to ensure those procedures can go ahead. Given the time it is going to take to address the supply chain issues and that existing stocks of Heraeus Medical bone cement products will need to be preserved for urgent trauma cases in the short term, local teams should now urgently look at the use of alternative cementing options for other procedures – all of which have regulatory approval – so we can continue to meet patient expectations.

We have set out below the alternative cementing options, so that local teams can immediately consider these to maintain existing elective care commitments and avoid unnecessary cancellations.

Viable Alternative Bone Cement Products

NHS Supply Chain has worked closely with all suppliers in the market and have identified 2 potential viable alternatives. NHS Supply Chain is in the process of securing these products and getting sufficient stock into our networks to enable the system to continue with patient care.

1. Johnson & Johnson CMW SMARTSET GHV GENTAMICIN 40g Bone Cement.

This cold chain product is widely used in the UK and will remain on the current eDirect supply route. Johnson & Johnson will apply its own demand control to ensure equity of ordering against available stock. Some additional stock will be available from March.

2. Zimmer Biomet Hi-Fatigue G bone cement. This is an ambient-controlled product which is currently used across Europe and has been since 2008. Large volumes of this product will only be available in the UK market, via NHS Supply Chain, from late February. Once secured, this stock will be brought into NHS Supply Chain networks and will be demand managed using standard principles.

Extensive engagement has taken place this week with the following key clinical bodies, who have all endorsed the use of the Zimmer Biomet product as a viable alternative subject to local decision making:

- British Orthopaedic Association
- British Hip Society
- British Association for Surgery of the Knee
- Orthopaedic Trauma Society

Please see the listing of published evidence at the bottom of this letter in Appendix A.

While both products will be critical during this supply disruption, trusts should consider the Zimmer Biomet product as a viable alternative given the greater levels of stock availability.

As this is a fast-moving global supply disruption, we will update you once stock is secured and in the UK.

Please continue to follow our guidance issued to date and await further ordering instructions.

To support decision making, we have also attached the cement's IFU for completeness and the product is licensed for sale in the EU and UK.

Immediate action required:

We ask that **all orthopaedic clinical units** discuss with their colleagues the contents of this letter urgently today and confirm to us using this email –

england.nationaloperationscentre@nhs.net – **by 5pm today, Friday 20 February** if they are willing to use one of the viable alternatives, which will allow NHS trusts to continue elective arthroplasty services. Please cc in your regional team (email below) on your reply.

It is critical we receive your replies so we can plan ahead accordingly.

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| National (NOC) | england.nationaloperationscentre@nhs.net |
| EOE | england.eoe-roc@nhs.net |
| LDN | england.london-roc@nhs.net |
| MID | england.midsroc2@nhs.net |
| NEY | england.neyoperationscentre@nhs.net |
| NW | england.nw-roc@nhs.net |
| SE | england.se-roc@nhs.net |
| SW | england.swroc@nhs.net |

We also understand there may be a training requirement to become familiar with the properties of the cement. Once product is available, Zimmer Biomet will support orthopaedic units with the necessary training for the use of Hi-Fatigue Cement. Early next week we will share some FAQs with you and we will also run webinars – details will be shared with you shortly.

Sitrep collection

To mitigate the risk of harm to patients, NHS England will need to understand the current position on stock held across the NHS in England presently. To do this, we will be

undertaking a data collection relating to existing stock levels of every NHS acute trust. We will do this through the Strategic Data Collection System (SDCS). The collection will open at 10am on Monday 23 February 2026 and will close at 2pm the same day. Nil returns are required. A screenshot of the template and further details of the collection can be found in Appendix B.

Yours sincerely



Prof Tim Briggs

National Director for Clinical Improvement and Elective Recovery

Chair of GIRFT Programme

NHS England



Ian Eardley

National Clinical Director for Elective Care
NHS England



Professor Fergal Monsell

President

British Orthopaedic Association

Appendix A

Evidence to support Hi-Fatigue G, supplied by Zimmer Biomet:

1. Jørgensen, P. B., et al. Equivalent hip stem fixation by Hi-Fatigue G and Palacos R+G bone-cement. A randomized radiostereometric controlled trial of 52 patients with 2-years follow-up. *Acta Orthopaedica*. Accepted 2019-02-08.
2. Deußer, S. Recapitulatory Report. Comparative study of bone cements: Hi-Fatigue Bone Cement, Hi-Fatigue G Bone cement, Palacos® R, Palacos® R+G, Surgical Simplex® P and Antibiotic Simplex®. *aap Biomaterials GmbH & Co. KG Dieburg, Germany*. Nov 12, 2008.*
3. Tanner, K E. Test report. Fatigue testing of four bone cements for *aap Biomaterials GmbH & Co. University of Glasgow*. 24 Oct, 2007.*
4. ISO 5833, Implant for Surgery – Acrylic Resin cements, 2002
5. Acrylic Bone Cement, ASTM International, West Conshohocken, PA, 2016, www.astm.org.
6. Frommelt, L., et al. Properties of Bone Cement: Antibiotic-Loaded Cement. In Breusch SJ, et al. *The Well-Cemented Total Hip Arthroplasty, Theory and Practice*. Springer Medizin Verlag, Heidelberg, Germany. 86-92, 2005.
7. Förster, GV., et al. Die infizierte Hüftendoprothese-Spätinfektion nach der 6.postoperativen Wochen. In Cotta, H. et al. *Knochen- und Gelenkinfektionen*. Springer Verlag, Berlin-Heidelberg, Germany. 124-135, 1988.
8. Data on file at Osartis. Report no. 1004-03FBA1701. Comparison of Gentamicin release.*
9. Scheerlinck, T., et al. Cement mantle thickness does not influence serum, or local gentamicin concentrations in hybrid total hip arthroplasty: a randomized controlled trial. *HIP International*. Jul; 28(4):415-421, 2018.

Appendix B

Draft template:

Number of procedures (average week)

| Hips | Knees | Other |
|------|-------|-------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| 70 | | |

A: How many procedures do you **usually do per week** that use Heraeus Medical cement?

Of those how many are:

B: Trauma patients

C: Urgent elective arthroplasty

D: Patients undergoing complex revision cases which cannot wait 6-8 weeks

E: Other - calculated as A - (B+C+D)

No. of bags

| |
|--|
| |
| |
| |

Current stock of Heraeus Medical cement

No. bags usually needed per week for urgent treatment (B, C, D above)

No. bags usually needed per week for other treatment (E above)

Collection details:

1. All NHS acute trusts are required to upload a return, and nil returns are required – if trusts don't use the affected cement, they need to upload a return populated with zeros.
2. The collection will open at 09:00 on Monday 23 February and the template will be available to download from SDCS then. The deadline for submission will be 14:00 the same day.
3. The collection will initially be released to all submitters of the Industrial Action rescheduled sitrep, and a further email will be sent to all those submitters prior to the collection opening, with further details of the collection – including guidance notes and information on how to change submitters, if required. Note that, in a change from previous emergency collection comms, those comms will be sent from ccsm@nhsdigital.nhs.uk
4. For any queries or urgent issues with uploading your template, please contact the National Service Desk at ssd.nationalservicedesk@nhs.net or call 0300 303 5035 (please telephone, rather than email for anything urgent) stating that the request is for the bone cement collection. For other guidance queries, please contact your Regional Operations Centre.