

The Consequences of Brexit for Irish and European Hospitals

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South/South West Hospital Group (S/SWHG)



Our Hospitals



**Cork University
Hospital**



**Cork University
Maternity Hospital**



**University Hospital
Waterford**



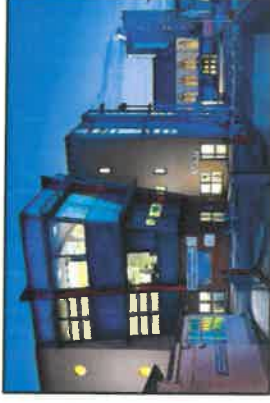
**University Hospital
Kerry**



**Mercy University
Hospital**



**South Tipperary
General Hospital**



**South Infirmary Victoria
University Hospital**



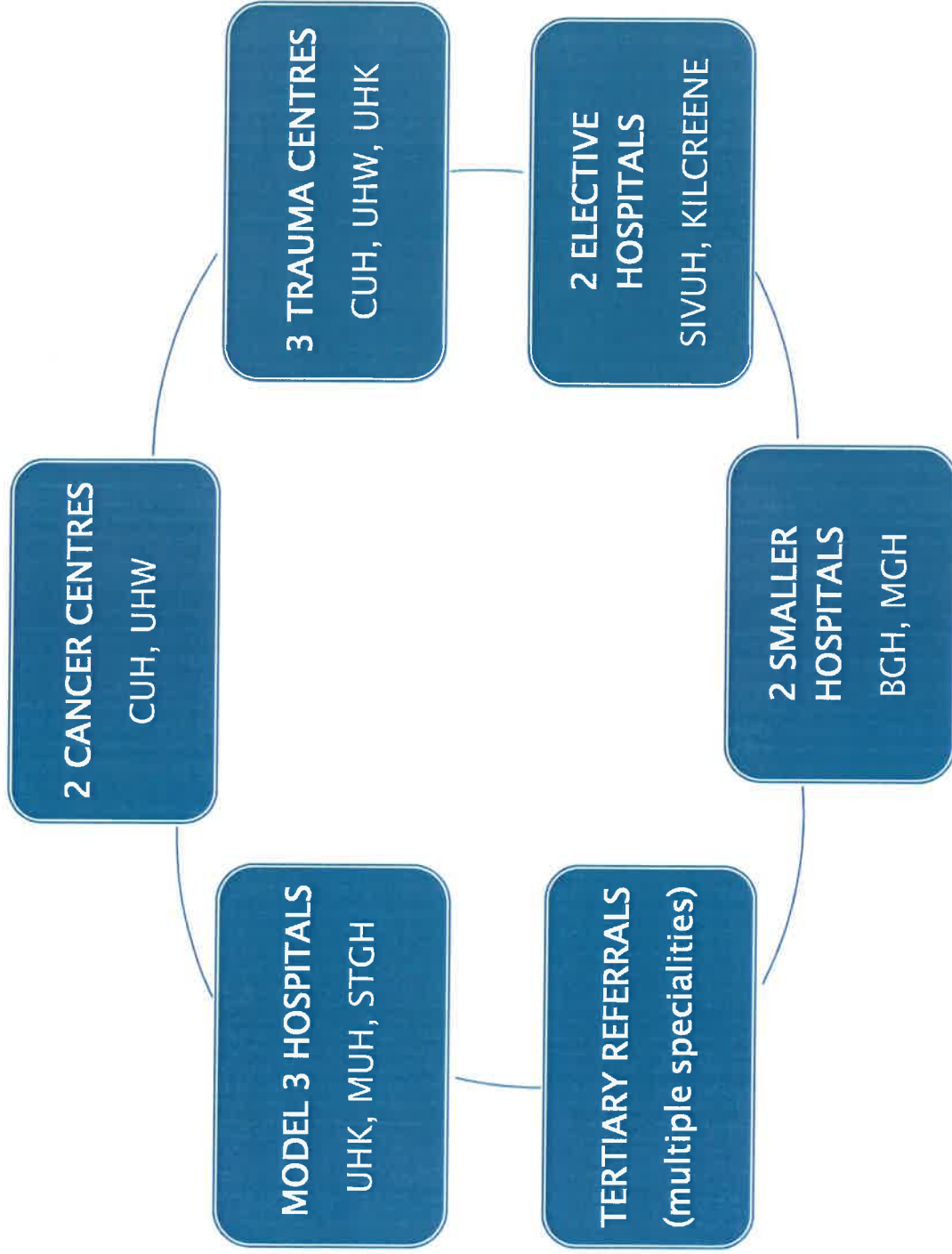
**Bantry General
Hospital**



**Mallow General
Hospital**



**Kilcreene Orthopaedic
Hospital**



SSWHG Summary 2018

- Serves a population of 1.5m
- Gross Budget: €1,023,263m
- Annual Net Budget: €844,528m
- WTE: 10,384
 - (equates to a headcount of 11,839 employees)
- Total Beds: 2521
 - Inpatient Beds: 2139
 - Day Beds: 382
- ED Presentations (new & return): 260,171
 - (includes 30,960 LIU attendances)
- Admissions: 330,149
 - (comprising 115,476 inpatient discharges and 214,673 day cases)
- OPD Attendances: 582,679



Brexit

- In the aftermath of the Second World War, the European Economic Community (EEC) was established in 1958 to foster economic co-operation
 - started with six countries;
 - has grown into the European Union (EU) with 28 European countries currently; and
 - has delivered more than half a century of peace, stability and prosperity across Europe.
- In 2016, the United Kingdom (UK) voted in a referendum to leave the EU (Brexit)
 - whilst this was a disappointing outcome for the other EU countries, it has been accepted as a democratic decision made by the UK.
- January 31st 2020 is the current deadline to achieve and ratify in the UK parliament the withdrawal agreement.
 - If this deadline cannot be reached, a no-deal Brexit is still a strong possibility.



No-deal Brexit and European & Irish Healthcare

- Ireland, an EU country, is the closest neighbour to and shares a land border with the UK.
- The implications to European and Irish healthcare systems of a no-deal Brexit need to be acknowledged.
- These include, but are not limited to:
 - Potential medication shortages / access issues / delays (i.e. border delays)
 - Significant challenges to continued research and development in healthcare
 - European and Irish Clinicians and medical professionals linkages with UK colleagues
 - Regulation of medications and medical devices
 - UK legislation – EU Directives



Potential medication shortages / access issues

- Medication shortages, especially for drugs with shorter shelf life, could be possible in the UK in the case of a no-deal Brexit.
 - could also affect stocks and access across Europe and Ireland due to border delays among others.
- Important to ensure the public understand that personal medical hoarding could disrupt the medical supply chain, leading to higher prices for critical medicines in short supply.



Significant challenges to continued research and development in healthcare

- European and Irish Universities and research institutions currently collaborate greatly with UK institutions especially in relation to EU funded grants i.e. Horizon 2020
 - If UK defined as a third country after a no-deal Brexit, these collaborations may be negatively affected.
 - Research and development are key to medical innovations which lead to improved patient care and outcomes.
- Research, innovation and development would continue in Europe and Ireland after a no-deal Brexit, however, new collaborations would need to be established which may delay further medical innovations.



European and Irish Clinicians and medical professionals linkages with UK colleagues

- As per research collaborations, there is a possibility that linkages between European and Irish Clinicians and medical professionals and UK colleagues may be compromised.
 - could result in less interaction with UK colleagues, less sharing of innovations
- Issues in relation to transfer of complex cases and use of the EU Cross Border Directive (CBD) between UK and EU countries.
- The current system across the EU of recognition of professional qualifications is governed by Directive 2005/36/EC, recently amended by Directive 2013/55/EC.
 - what will happen in the case of a no-deal Brexit for clinicians and medical professionals moving from EU to UK and vice-versa?

Regulation of medications and medical devices

- Medicines regulation in EU member states managed by European Medicines Agency (EMA).
 - if no-deal Brexit occurs and UK no longer part of EMA, does the national regulatory agency, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), have capability and capacity to manage increased workload and what will be the relationship with EMA?
- Medical devices with EU and UK, in the event of a no-deal Brexit, will continue to be CE-marked and comply with all EU regulations, as applicable.
 - mechanism to allow issues with medical devices to be reported from the UK to EU committees is needed.

UK legislation – EU Directives

- Under the withdrawal agreement or no-deal Brexit, it has been agreed to transfer all EU directives into UK legislation.
 - in time UK legislation may be amended.



International
Organization for
Standardization

- Continued adherence to International Standards i.e. ISO.

Conclusion

- Whether there is a deal or no-deal Brexit, the European and Irish healthcare systems needs to be able to adapt to accept or mitigate the effects in the short and long-term.
- Within Ireland, the implementation of the Sláintecare Programme, the ten year Health Service Improvement Strategy, will facilitate this in the medium to long term.



Thank you



Merci

Danke

Go raibid maith agaibh



Pérlimeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláimic
Health Service Executive



University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh