

To: NHS England and NHS Improvement  
Regional Directors  
NHS England and NHS Improvement  
Regional Medical Directors  
NHS England and NHS Improvement  
Regional EPRR leads  
NHS England and NHS Improvement  
Regional Directors of Nursing  
NHS England and NHS Improvement  
Regional Comms Teams  
NHS Trust Medical Directors  
NHS Trust EPRR Leads  
NHS Trust Directors of Nursing  
CCG EPRR Leads – For information  
Independent providers of NHS services  
Directors of Midwifery  
Clinical Directors of Children and Young  
People  
Clinical Director of Neonates Services

NHS England and NHS Improvement  
Skipton House  
80 London Road  
London  
SE1 6LH

**22 February 2022**

Dear colleagues,

## **Bivona Tracheostomy clinical risk stratification tool**

Due to a raw material shortage, production of the entire range of Smiths Bivona® paediatric tracheostomy products has been temporarily paused. The current stock position is critical on several product lines, with low levels on many other sizes (an [Important Customer Notice](#) has been issued). This supply disruption is likely to continue to affect systems for at least several weeks to months.

Today, the British Association for Paediatric Otolaryngology and the National Tracheostomy Safety Project have issued a [risk stratification tool](#) in relation to the use of these devices. The risk stratification tool aims to support clinicians in their decision-making and when offering clinical advice to those patients who may be affected by this issue.

To mitigate the risks, it is proposed that mutual aid is utilised across clinical networks (e.g. Surgery in Children Operational Delivery Networks) to minimise the numbers of children in the community needing to change their usual device. If through a mutual aid request a device is not sourced, then a clinical request can be submitted through NHS Supply Chain, this will be reviewed by clinical experts and every effort will be made to get a device.

If the preferred Bivona® device(s) is not available through the above routes, then it may be necessary to review clinical alternatives. Clinical judgement should be applied when assessing whether it is appropriate and safe to use an alternative product.

Contact details for support mutual aid	
Region	Mailbox
North East and Yorkshire	<a href="mailto:england.covid19-neyprocurementadvice@nhs.net">england.covid19-neyprocurementadvice@nhs.net</a>
North West	<a href="mailto:merseyicc.eight@nhs.net">merseyicc.eight@nhs.net</a> .
Midlands and East	<a href="mailto:england.midsroc2@nhs.net">england.midsroc2@nhs.net</a>
East of England	<a href="mailto:england.eoe-covidequipment@nhs.net">england.eoe-covidequipment@nhs.net</a>
South West	<a href="mailto:england.sw-roc21@nhs.net">england.sw-roc21@nhs.net</a>
South East	<a href="mailto:england.se-roc@nhs.net">england.se-roc@nhs.net</a>
London	<a href="mailto:england.london-covid19supplies@nhs.net">england.london-covid19supplies@nhs.net</a>

Kind regards,



**Dr Mike Prentice**  
**National Strategic Incident Director, COVID-19**  
**NHS England and NHS Improvement**