

# Patients in Need

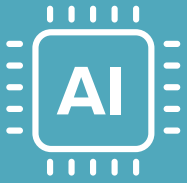
## MEDICINE SHORTAGES

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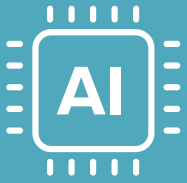
July 2023



# AI in Medicine: Addressing Bias to Promote Equality



AI systems require massive data sets to train themselves to make decisions, detect patterns, or predict outcomes. Depending on the data provided, AI works flawlessly. However, data bias can lead to errors and misclassifications in outcomes. For instance, studies have found that algorithms distinguished cardiovascular risk in White patients more accurately than in black patients. This indicates significant potential for the AI to further exacerbate the existing inequality in healthcare outcomes. Thus, we can say that AI in medicine is only as beneficial as the data use to train it.



# Generative AI and impact to healthcare

Global health is undergoing many challenges such as: increasing incidence in pandemics, surge of chronic diseases, mental health concerns and a rapidly ageing population. The healthcare industry is undoubtedly struggling to keep up with the rising demand for high-quality services.

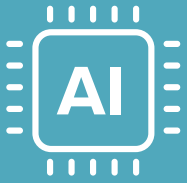
Ways in which AI can assist are as follows:

1) *Clinical decision making, generative AI can analyse data from PMRs, previous treatments and identify potential problem areas;*

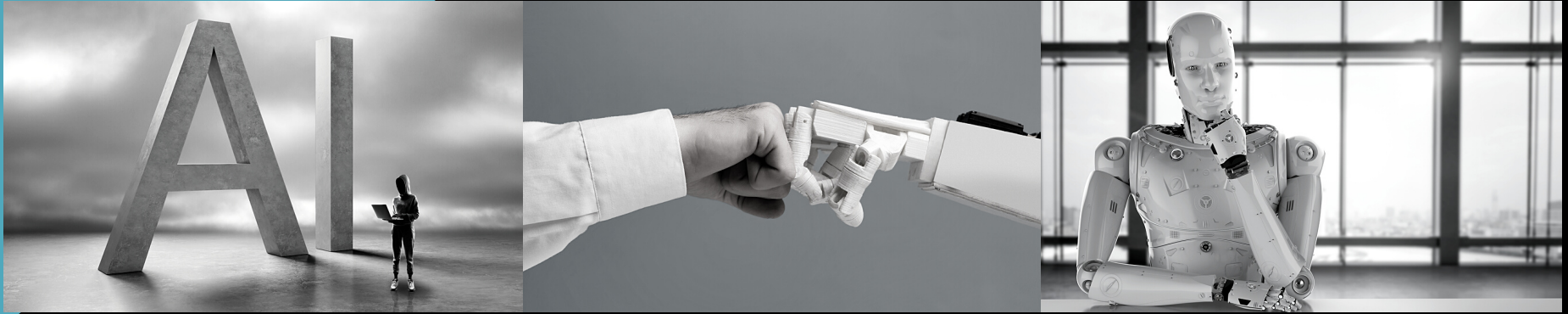
2) *Risk prediction of Pandemic Preparedness (generative AI models are being trained on large amounts of protein sequences to identify new antibodies);*

3) *Personalized medicine and care, wearable devices can collect real time data about a person's health which can be then fed into generative AI algorithm to interpret the data;*

4) *improved drug discovery and development*



# Solving US Drug Shortages with A.I.



Traditionally, drug development and manufacturing can take up to a decade or more, which contributes to the drug shortage crisis. However, AI is already accelerating the drug development process, and many pharmaceutical companies are using machine learning to speed up their research.

Generative AIs are trained against known data, and as they continue to improve, we expect to see significant advances in drug development. By using AI, drug companies can sift through large amounts of data to identify promising compounds and speed up the drug discovery process.



# How AI is Transforming Telemedicine <sup>©</sup>



**One of the most significant changes in recent years has been the adoption of telemedicine, or remote diagnosis and treatment of patients via telecommunications technology.**

The pandemic has played a major role in driving this trend, but it's only the beginning. Now, AI is set to revolutionize healthcare even further. In fact, according to a report by CNBC, 83% of executives agree that science tech capabilities could help address health-related challenges around the world. So, how exactly is AI changing healthcare? In this blog post, we explore the A.I. revolution in healthcare and the impact it's having on telemedicine.

# United Kingdom



## UK Medicines Shortage Crisis – A Growing Concern for Pharmacists

Pharmacists are on the front line of this crisis and are dealing with the fallout on a daily basis. From sourcing alternative medications to navigating the regulatory landscape, the shortage of vital medicines is having a real impact on our ability to provide the best possible care to patients



# United Kingdom



## Atorvastatin in short supply

8 million British citizens are prescribed statins to regulate their cholesterol levels. The shortage has raised concerns among healthcare professionals who fear that the subsequent struggles in securing access to the drug may lead to consequences both for the nation's health and the healthcare industry as a whole.



# United Kingdom



## Managing Diabetes Treatment During Semaglutide Shortages

Despite being initially marketed as a diabetes medication, semaglutide has gained popularity for its efficacy in weight loss, leading to incremental demand and consequent limited supplies.

Unfortunately, the supply chain has not been able to keep up with the demand, resulting in intermittent shortages of the drug.





USA



# Understanding FDA Concerns Over Compounded Ozempic and Wegovy

**The FDA issued a statement expressing concerns about compounded versions of weight loss drugs, Ozempic and Wegovy. This statement has sent shockwaves across the healthcare industry as the compounded versions of these drugs have been linked to adverse effects. Compounding refers to a process of mixing ingredients to create a medication specifically formulated for a patient. While compounded medications can help patients with a variety of medical conditions, they are not FDA-approved.**





USA

# ASHP Reports Drug Shortages Reach a 10 Year High

Drug shortages hitting a 10 year high in the first quarter of 2023 due to a combination of new and ongoing unresolved shortages. For more than half (56%) of the shortages investigated, the underlying reason was either unknown or the manufacturer would not provide it. The most common identifiable reasons were supply and demand issues (19%), manufacturing issues (18%) & business decisions (5%)



USA



# Drug Shortage and Wall Street, what's the Connection?

In recent years, drug shortages have become a major issue across the United States. The main reason for such shortages is the pharmaceutical industry's reliance on unstable global supply chains. Although drug shortages have been a persistent problem, the issue has grown worse during recent years. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exposed the extent of the problem, with shortages of essential drugs such as those used to treat COVID-19 patients. It has also shed light on the root cause of the issue, which is a business model that prioritizes profits over public health. In this blog, we will discuss how we can fix drug shortages and why it's essential to address the links between big pharma and Wall Street.



# USA



## The Akorn Bankruptcy and its Impact on Patient Care

The pharmaceutical manufacturer's insolvency has highlighted the deep-rooted financial challenges that generics companies are facing, which are leading to unprecedented drug shortages and supply chain disruptions

As a result, patients are struggling to access a wide range of treatments, including life-saving medication such as cancer drugs



USA



# Tornado Hits North Carolina Pfizer Warehouse

Last week, a tornado hit North Carolina and caused significant damage to the Pfizer warehouse located there. While the damage has been unfortunate, prompt action is underway to avoid drug shortages due to the incident. The Pfizer warehouse held raw materials, packaging supplies, and finished medicines awaiting review. Thankfully, immediate drug shortages are not expected, but there is still a risk that hospitals may experience supply disruption. The FDA and Pfizer are both working to ensure the supply of medicines remains consistent and that hospitals and patients are not affected.

France



# How Does France Plan to Overcome the Problem?



**The French government has recently taken a bold step to address the drug shortage problem by bringing the manufacture of common drugs back to the country.**

According to reports, China and India produce 80% of the active ingredients in common drugs in France, including paracetamol. The French government has recognized that this overreliance on other countries poses a significant risk to its healthcare system, and therefore, it has taken the initiative to bring the production of essential drugs back home. President Emmanuel Macron has announced a budget of 160 million euros to set up eight manufacturing sites for common drugs across eight different manufacturers.

**MONITORING  
YOUR PRODUCTS  
FOR MEDICINE  
SHORTAGES,**



**MEANS YOU'LL  
KNOW SOONER  
WHEN SOURCES  
ARE AVAILABLE.**



# iethico

## medicine procurement platform

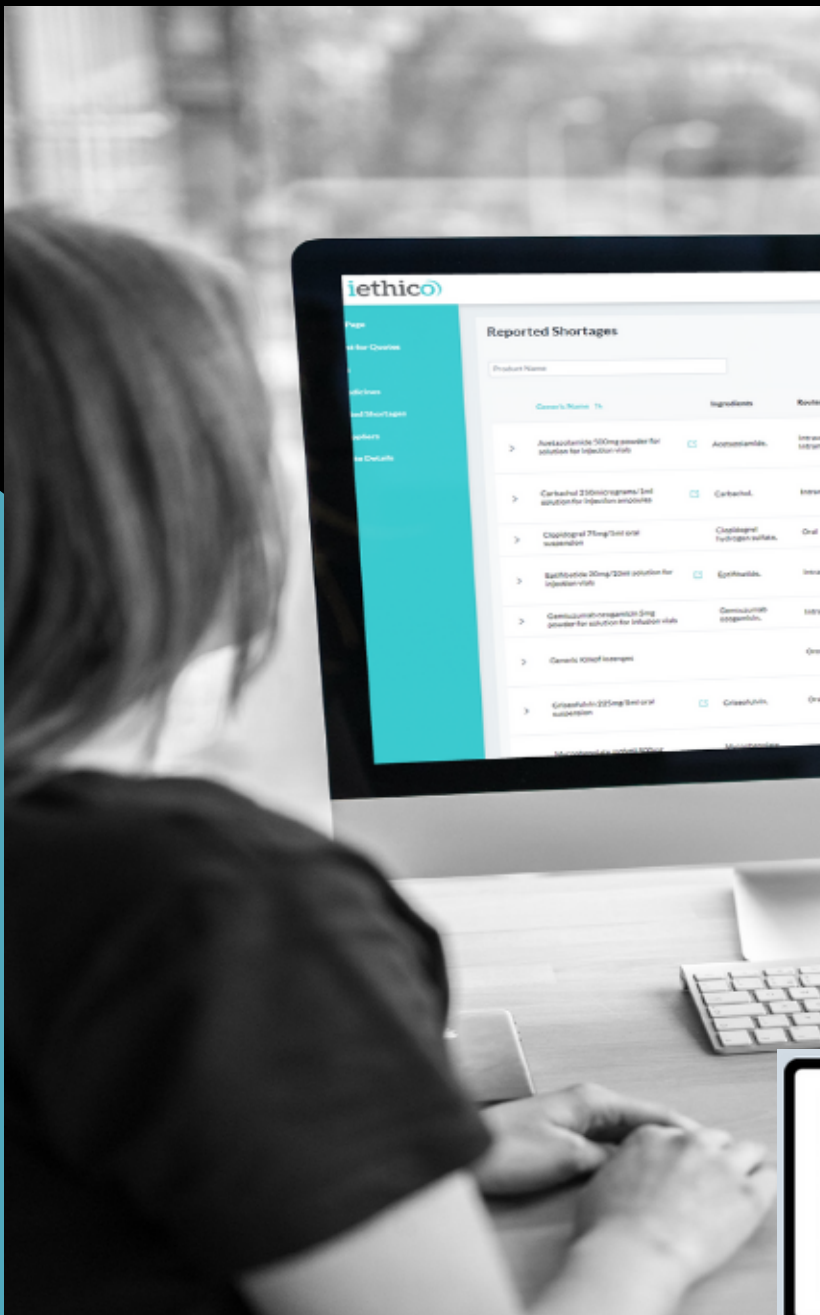
Our platform provides medicines procurement teams with access to multiple suppliers and in doing so simplifies the process of obtaining and ordering medicines. The platform complies with NHS digital standards (DTAC) and is regulated by the MHRA, providing a secure and regulated solution for procuring medicines.

iEthico are working with researchers at the University of Leicester to understand how the new platform could be incorporated into existing medicines procurement team workflows.

**Tell us what you think**



If you have a role in NHS medicines procurement, please tell us what you think of the new platform by completing this short survey





Tap into the technology for  
**MEDICINE SOURCING**

M A D E S I M P L E

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