



# Patients in Need

MEDICINE  
SHORTAGES

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# Coordinated Action to Address Medicine Shortages in Europe



In recent years, Europe has faced critical shortages of essential medicines, including antibiotics, which have caused significant concerns among healthcare professionals and policymakers. These shortages have underscored the importance of a resilient and secure medicine supply chain, which is vital to ensuring the availability of life-saving medicines for patients in Europe. To address this issue, the European Commission has adopted a set of actions to prevent and mitigate critical medicinal shortages in the EU.





# The ADHD Medication Shortage in the US: Causes and Effects

The ADHD medication shortage is a severe problem in the US, with many patients finding it difficult or impossible to obtain the medication they need. The shortage began as early as October 2022 when the FDA announced the shortage of Adderall, one of the most commonly used medications for the disorder. This shortage is expected to run well into December 2023, pushing doctors to prescribe other generic versions of the medication as alternatives. However, this sudden push from Adderall to various generic alternatives has created a mass insufficiency, causing a domino effect in the shortages.

Many questions surround why demand so heavily outweighs supply, leading to the ADHD medication shortage. The main concern of the public is overdiagnosis within the US. Research has suggested that a surge in demand occurred over the COVID pandemic, with a 10% rise in prescription fills from 2020 to 2021, a notable increase after four years of relatively little change. In addition to this, the level of telehealth service use had increased by 15-fold. The combination of more relaxed prescription standards, as well as the expansion of telehealth services, created "the perfect storm" for shortage.





# Shortages of Common Older Medicines are on the Rise

Access to medicine is a fundamental human right, yet shortages of common older medicines are becoming more widespread. According to experts, this is due to pharmaceutical companies being de-incentivised from producing them. This situation is affecting patients with all pathologies, including essential medications like antibiotics, cardiovascular medications, and diabetes treatments. It's frustrating for healthcare professionals and patients alike when shortages occur, causing a great amount of concern and unease.



# Chemotherapy Agents

## Navigating the Increasing Costs of Limited Chemotherapy Agents

Patients diagnosed with cancer require timely and effective treatments to increase their chances of survival. Chemotherapy, which is widely used in cancer care, can be life-saving, but it also comes with significant costs. Unfortunately, with limited chemotherapy drugs in short supply, the rising cost of drugs, such as carboplatin and cisplatin, can become a barrier to access life-saving treatments.

The rising costs of limited chemotherapy agents continue to create challenges for healthcare providers, as these costs can result in unaffordable treatments and limited access to life-saving medications. The situation highlights the need for greater collaboration between healthcare providers, policymakers, and pharmaceutical companies to arrive at sustainable solutions.





# Kenya: A Threat to the Fight Against Tuberculosis



The fight against tuberculosis has been a long-standing battle for Kenya. Throughout the years, the country has made significant strides towards reducing the prevalence of the disease. However, a new threat has emerged in the form of a nationwide medicine shortage. This shortage is suspected to be due to a change in the global supply chain. As a result, Kenya is at risk of losing the gains made in the fight against tuberculosis. In this blog post, we will explore the impact of this shortage on the country, its people, and the economy



## Battling the Effects of Drug Shortages - 10 Year High



According to the FDA, the number of drug shortages in the US has hit a ten-year high. Several factors are causing drug shortages in the healthcare industry, and according to studies, the root cause is a industry-wide lack of manufacturing investment. Other factors are natural disasters like hurricanes and earthquakes, production problems, and regulatory issues.

*The shortage of essential drugs is compromising patient outcomes, leading to higher healthcare costs, and posing significant risks to the lives of patients*

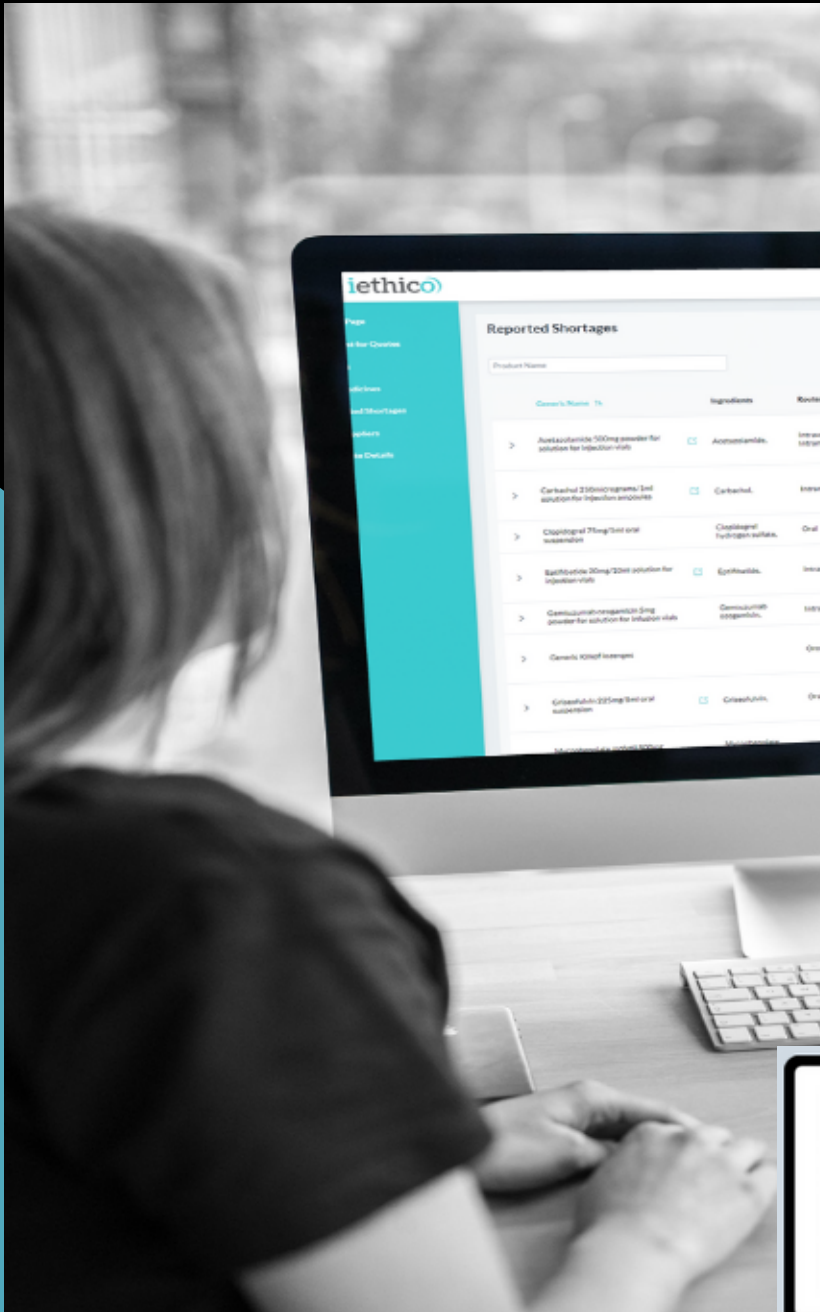
*healthcare organizations can mitigate such risks by implementing predictive analytics, improving supply chain communication and collaboration, and fostering strong partnerships with suppliers.*

**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

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**MEDICINE SOURCING**

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