

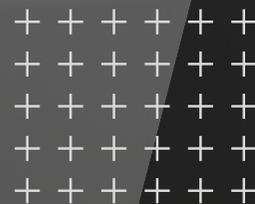


Patients in Need

MEDICINE
SHORTAGES

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Why medicines are still in short supply



Over 22,000 medications have not been available in the past five years, and the number is likely higher as national reports often overlook daily local and regional pharmacy challenges.

Italy leads with the highest number of medicinal product shortages over the past five years, recording 10,843 cases. Czechia follows behind with 2,699 cases, while Germany trails with 2,355 cases. On the other end of the scale, Greece recorded the lowest absolute number of shortages, with only 389 cases.

Netherlands



In 2022, the Netherlands experienced an unprecedented number of drug shortages



In 2022, there was a sharp increase in drug shortages, reaching an all-time high. Specifically, there were 1,514 occurrences where a drug was unavailable for two weeks or more as compared to 1,007 in the previous year. This is a concerning trend that requires immediate attention in the healthcare industry.

JICA's Decision is to provide an additional \$5 million USD for the procurement of medicines and medical supplies in Sri Lanka. This is in addition to the \$12 million USD that was provided for emergency medical assistance in May 2020. The total amount of support from JICA now comes to \$17 million USD.

Spain



Spanish Pharmacies Experience Severe Delays in Availability of Hundreds of Medications Due to Europe's Drug Shortage

Pharmacies in Spain are struggling to provide 403 types of essential drugs for conditions such as heart disease, muscle problems, digestive issues, and breathing disorders.

The process of acquiring these drugs now takes up to four to five weeks longer than before, causing significant delays and difficulties for patients.

Belgium



Lack of transparency

Belgium is in the grips of a severe drug shortage crisis, leaving 1,239 crucial medicines out of reach

- a startling contrast to the Federal Medicines Agency's claim that only 363 were unavailable. This issue is recurring, with national shortage lists failing to address everyday challenges faced by pharmacies. As a result, the burden falls on pharmacies and the problem remains underreported.



Germany



According to Germany's national database, 425 drugs are reported as unavailable.

However, pharmacists association reveals that almost every other prescription is now impacted by shortages. This results in additional workload, which incurs monthly costs of approximately €3,000 (\$3,200) per pharmacy.

The federal government is actively working to address systemic challenges in the drug supply chain. Unfortunately, pharmacists and drugmakers express that the current proposals fall short of expectations.

**Regulations blamed
for shortage**

USA



As shortage of growth hormone drug persists, families struggle to obtain it 



Discover the real-life challenges faced by patients and healthcare professionals due to Norditropin shortages in the US.

This intriguing piece delves into the effects of insufficient and vague information when dealing with these shortages. This means many elderly and psychiatric patients have to ‘abruptly come off one medication and start another’, according to one medical source.

United Kingdom



Not all about Brexit

The rise in medicine shortages in the US is a clear indication that the UK's problems are not solely due to Brexit, but a widespread issue affecting all pharmaceutical markets, including both brand name and generic drugs, and across all treatment areas. It's an important reminder that this is a global concern.



Drug Shortages

10 Year High

In the last 20 years, injectable drugs have been responsible for the majority of new drug shortages, ranging from 50% to 70%. Although the number of new drug shortages decreased from 2018 to 2021, it rose to 160 in 2022 and 47 in 2023 so far.

The Senate committee warns that the 30% increase in new drug shortages in 2022 poses health and national security risks. Central nervous system drugs, such as antidepressants, account for 52 shortages. Supply and demand, manufacturing breakdowns, and undisclosed reasons are the most common causes of drug shortages.

More than 15 critical drug products have been in shortage for over a decade, with 20 in shortage since at least 2015.





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medicine procurement platform

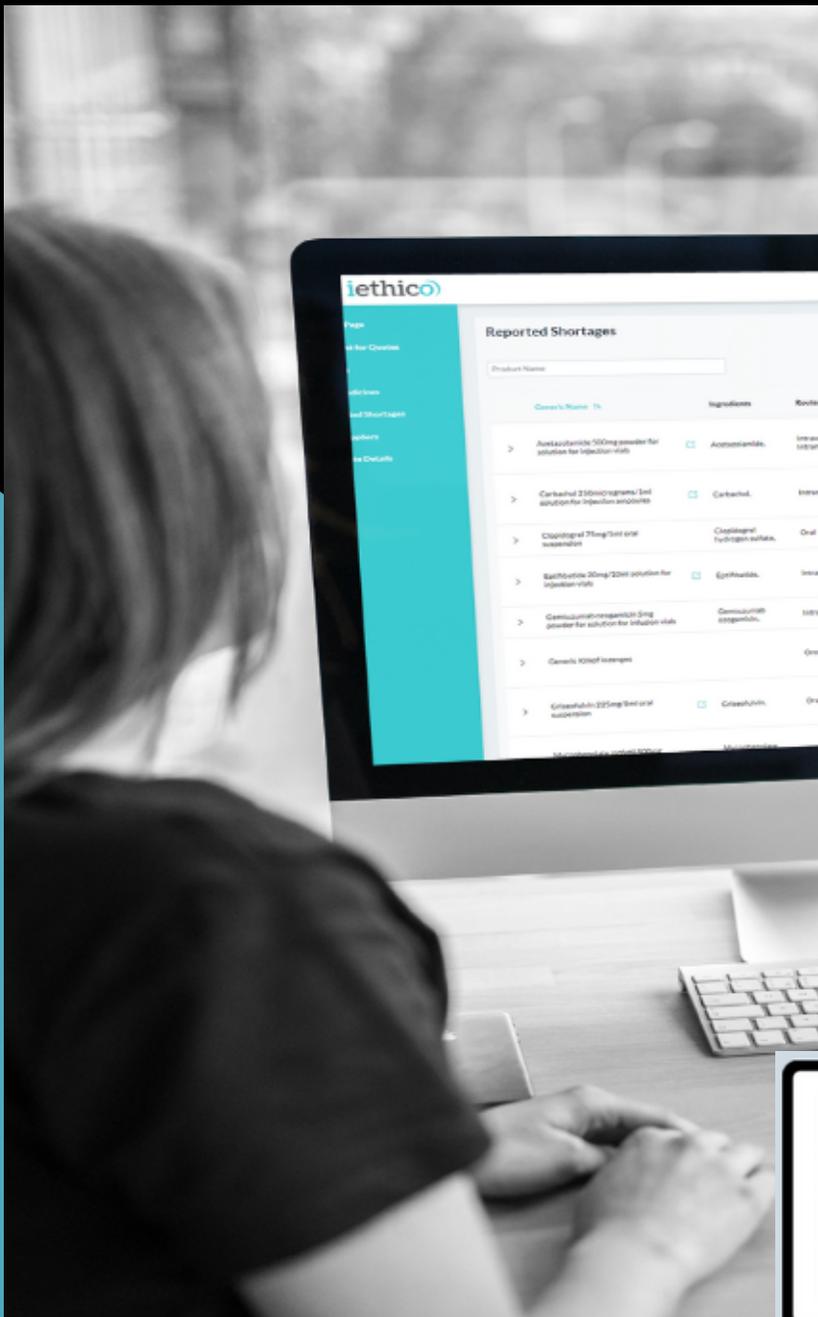
Our platform provides medicines procurement teams with access to multiple suppliers and in doing so simplifies the process of obtaining and ordering medicines. The platform complies with NHS digital standards (DTAC) and is regulated by the MHRA, providing a secure and regulated solution for procuring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



Pharmacists and Suppliers can

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