



# Patients in Need

## REPORT

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# Pharmacists Sound Alarm Over UK Medicine Shortages



## Medicine Shortage in UK



**With medicine shortages becoming more common, UK pharmacists are warning that patients may be put at risk. There has been a critical shortage of some drugs in England including one used among cancer sufferers and another which prevents strokes.**

UK pharmacists are sounding the alarm over medicine shortages, with half believing patients have been put at risk due to this. A poll of 1,562 UK pharmacy professionals for The Pharmaceutical Journal found that more than fifty percent (54%) believed patients at risk in last six months because there wasn't enough inventory on hand.

The government has been issuing a number of notifications recently that highlight medical shortages. Some pharmacists expressed concerns about switching patients on certain medication or giving them alternatives due in part from shortages that have occurred recently with alendronic acid - a popular osteoporosis medicine among community pharmacy employees.





# Ireland Drug Shortages leading to increase in unlicensed medicine



## Medicine Shortage in Ireland



**Ireland has been struggling with a medicine shortage leading to the use of unlicensed drug alternatives. This, in turn, has caused an issue for patients and doctors who are now having trouble obtaining key medications they need due to lack of supply.**

Over 160 medicines in short supply including paracetamol, EpiPens to treat life-threatening anaphylaxis, as well as HRT. Doctors are accessing medicines which are licensed abroad but not by the HPRA in order to fill gaps. The drugs termed “exempt medicinal products” have not gone through a licensing assessment in Ireland.

Ireland has a competitive disadvantage when it comes to meeting global demand for manufactured products. The country does not produce enough of its own goods, so manufacturers are more likely supply the market where they can get better pricing from customers who want these items.



# FDA Warns of Over 100 Drug Shortages

**The FDA has recently released a list of over 100 medications that are currently facing shortages.**



The FDA is working closely with drug manufacturers to help alleviate these shortages. They are also working with other federal agencies, such as the DEA, to help ensure that hospitals and other healthcare facilities have the drugs they need. In the meantime, pharmacists may need to ration these medications or find alternative treatments.

FDA is urging manufacturers to increase production of these drugs to meet the high demand. In the meantime, pharmacists are working overtime to source these medications from other countries. However, this is proving to be difficult as many other countries are also grappling with drug shortages.

The situation is exacerbated by the fact that hospitals are also running low on supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE). This has led to a decrease in the number of hospital staff who are available to dispense these life-saving medications. As a result, patients are being forced to wait longer than usual for their prescriptions.

Some of the medications that are currently in shortage include:

- Anesthetics
- Anti-infectives
- Cancer treatments
- Cardiovascular drugs
- Gastrointestinal medications
- Pain relievers
- Psychiatric drugs
- Respiratory treatments





# Panic Buying

## **Shortage of children's medication causes panic buying**

In recent months, we have seen a shortage of children's medications due to the influx of panic buying behavior. Physicians are now advising parents to avoid giving their kids expired medication and to speak to health professionals on how to manage illnesses as well as their anxieties. It is important that families do not panic-buy medication and understand that there are lots of options to help kids, as hoarding when no one is ill takes medication off the shelves in USA.



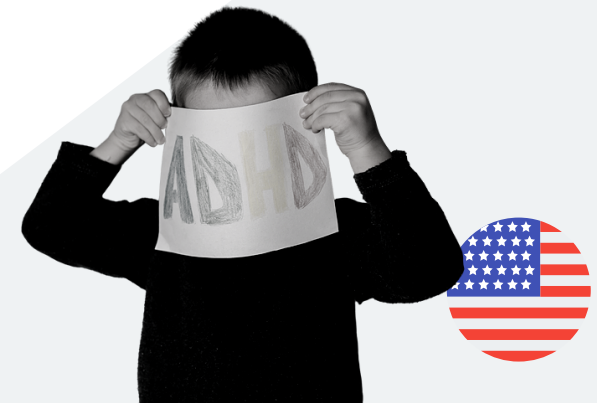
# The Growing Demand for ADHD Medications



According to manufacturers, retailers, and patients, patients in the US with ADHD are having trouble filling prescriptions of Adderall and generic versions of the drug amid growing demand and a shortage.

The increased demand for ADHD medications has put a strain on supply. In some cases, patients are being forced to switch to other medications or wait weeks for their prescriptions to be filled. The shortage is being caused by several factors, including increased prescribing by doctors, panic buying by patients, and hoarding by retailers.

ADHD medications are among the most commonly prescribed drugs in the US. They are typically taken daily and can be expensive, so patients often have difficulty getting their prescriptions filled when there is a shortage.

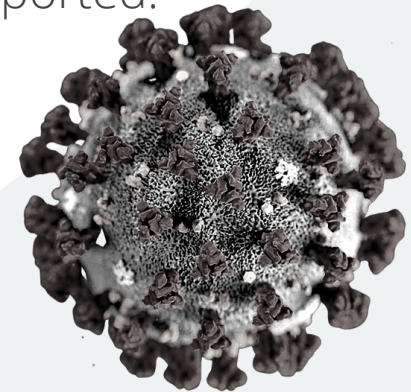




# Moderna

## **Moderna COVID Booster Shots Shipped Amid Reports of Shortages**

The new boosters target both the original coronavirus strain and Omicron subvariants BA.4 and BA.5. At the moment, BA.5 accounts for nearly 85% of all U.S. cases. While supplies of the updated Pfizer booster shot appear to be plentiful, some pharmacies have reported not having enough Moderna vaccine, CNN reported.





# Canada

A new report has found that drug shortages are a major problem in Canada, with 29% of medicines sold in the country being affected by shortages in 2019/20. The report also found that 91% of these shortages impacted multi-source, non-patented drugs, where substitutions from another manufacturer were possible. This is a major issue for pharmacists who are struggling to keep up with the demand for these drugs.

## **Cold and Flu Medication Shortage**

Vaccine manufacturers are ramping up production in anticipation of high demand for the flu shot this year.

The biggest impact of drug shortages on pharmacists is the increased workload. When a drug is in short supply, pharmacists have to spend more time tracking down the available supply and contacting patients to let them know about the shortage. This takes away from time that could be spent on other tasks, such as providing consultations or performing medication reviews.



# Anaesthetic Shortages in Vietnam



**This shortage is due to the fact that the import licence for anaesthetics has not been renewed, and drug supply companies are also out of stock.**

One of the most immediate consequences of the anaesthetic shortage is an increase in cancellations and postponements of surgeries. In some cases, patients who have already undergone surgery are being discharged before they have fully recovered because there are not enough nurses available to monitor them. As a result, these patients are being readmitted to hospitals at a higher rate than usual.



**The shortage of basic medicines at health centres in India continues to be a problem.**

## **Basic Shortage of Medicines in India**



**Doctors at the centres said some medicines, especially for children, were not available for a long time. Other medicines included: Paracetamol drops, Tablet Multivitamin and Tablet Domperidone.**

India does not have a centralized system for procuring and distributing medicines. Each health centre is responsible for sourcing its own medicines and many medical suppliers are located in urban areas, making it difficult for rural health centres to get the medicines they need.

Another reason for the shortages is that many Indian pharmaceutical companies are struggling to meet global quality standards. As a result, these companies are not able to export their products to developed countries where they can fetch higher prices. This has led to a decline in production and an increase in prices for medicines in India.





# Cuba's Medicine Crisis



Cuba is in the midst of a medicine crisis. The country's BioCubaFarma company has developed 996 products, including medicines, vaccines, diagnostic tools, and medical devices. Of these, 757 are for the public health system, including 60% (369) of the 627 medicines and vaccines in the basic list, 10 more than the previous year.

## **The Causes of Cuba's Medicine Shortage**

There are several causes of Cuba's medicine shortage. First, the country has difficulty importing raw materials and finished products due to the U.S. trade embargo. This makes it difficult to keep up with global demand for new medicines and technologies. Second, Cuban pharmacies are not well-stocked due to limited government funding. This lack of funding also means that Cuban pharmaceutical companies have difficulty investing in research and development. And finally, many Cubans cannot afford to purchase medicines due to high prices.



# **The Zambian government has refuted media reports that the country has run out of antiretroviral (ARV) drugs meant for people living with HIV.**

Despite media reports to the contrary, the Zambian government has refuted claims that the country has run out of antiretroviral (ARV) drugs. In a statement released by the Ministry of Health, the government said that Zambia has enough ARV drugs to meet the needs of people living with HIV.

The news that Zambia has not run out of ARV drugs will come as a relief to many people living with HIV in the country.



# Kidney Patients in India



## Kidney Patients protest government advice on drug use

Kidney transplant patients have protested the recommendations made by the Health and Family Welfare department on provisions for branded organ transplant drugs. A group of patients stated Health and Family Welfare Minister Narendra Chandra Tomar on Saturday, alleging that the drugs supplied by Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL) were substandard and of poor quality.

They also alleged that officials were trying to dispose off the generic drugs which were ineffective and not up to the mark. The protestors demanded that the government provide them with branded immunosuppressant drugs like Neoral and Tacrolimus as recommended by their doctors.





Karachiites are facing an acute shortage of not only Panadol but other medicines prescribed for treating fever, due to the rise in dengue cases in the city. Heavy rainfall and floods have triggered different vector-borne diseases, including dengue and malaria. With more and more cases being reported on a daily basis, the situation is rapidly deteriorating.

## Acute shortage of medicines in Karachi amid rising dengue cases

As the number of dengue cases continues to rise in Karachi, so does the hardships of its citizens. Not only are they facing a severe shortage of Panadol, but also other medicines that are prescribed for treating fever. According to a report on Saturday, heavy rainfall and floods have triggered different vector-borne diseases, with Karachi seeing an influx of dengue and malaria cases.



# Kenya

Kenya's Health Sector Budget Struggles to Keep Up With Demand - According to a recent report, the Lamu county health sector is operating below budget, despite investments towards achieving Universal Healthcare Coverage.

This has led to a drug shortage in the county, forcing patients to buy medicine from private pharmacies. In this blog post, we'll take a closer look at the issues facing the Lamu county health sector and what can be done to address them.

The problem stems from the fact that the Lamu county government only allocated 6% of its total budget towards health care in 2019/2020. This is far below the 15% recommended by the World Health Organization. The lack of funding has led to a shortage of drugs and medical supplies in the county's hospitals. Patients have been forced to buy medicine from private pharmacies, which are often more expensive than the county pharmacy. This has caused many families to struggle financially. The situation has been made worse by the fact that the Lamu county government has not been able to provide adequate medicine for 20,000 households.



# Helping Sri Lanka



**CCL Pharma of Pakistan makes lifesaving donation to Sri Lanka MOH**



**SriLankan Airlines helps children in need for overseas care**



**China Donates Anti-Rabies Vaccines to Sri Lanka**

# Medical Drones



**Medical Drones for Postoperative Pain Management**



# CCL Pharma

CCL Pharmaceuticals of Pakistan has made a generous donation of lifesaving medicine to the Sri Lanka Ministry of Health that will help Kidney transplant patients, to prevent organ failure. Considering the current acute shortage of medicines, the gesture will support the government of Sri Lanka in providing a critical drug for kidney patients.

The donation from CCL is part of Pakistan's on-going commitment to supporting Sri Lanka in its efforts to provide quality healthcare for all its citizens. The company has a long history of philanthropic work and this latest donation is just one example of their dedication to improving the lives of people around the world.



# SriLankan Airlines

SriLankan Airlines has announced a new corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative to sponsor air tickets for children in need of overseas medical care. The initiative will provide tickets to patients certified by a medical doctor, as well as one parent or guardian of the patient.

By covering the cost of air travel, this initiative will make it easier for families to get their children the treatment they need. Additionally, this initiative highlights SriLankan Airlines' commitment to giving back to its community.



# Donation from China

## China Donates Anti-Rabies Vaccines to Sri Lanka.

China has donated medicines worth 650 million rupees to Sri Lanka under a 500 million RMB (Renminbi) emergency humanitarian assistance. The consignment included 270,000 doses of anti-rabies vaccines and other medicines like painkillers and antibiotics that are currently out of stock due to forex shortages. With 92 out of 383 essential drugs currently in short supply, the Sri Lankan health sector is facing a dire situation.





# Medical Drones

One of the most promising applications for medical drones in the postoperative pain management market is their ability to deliver medications directly to patients' homes. This would allow patients to avoid having to travel to a pharmacy or hospital to pick up their prescriptions.

The incorporation of medical drones into the postoperative pain management market has the potential to revolutionize the way that medications are delivered to patients. These devices could also provide pharmacists with an invaluable tool for remotely consulting with and checking up on their patients. It will be interesting to see how these applications develop in the coming years.



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