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# DRUG SHORTAGES

Latest from  
around the world

# THE AMERICAN ADDERALL SHORTAGE



**Across the country, people are struggling to fill their prescriptions for Adderall. The FDA announced a nationwide shortage of immediate release amphetamine mixed salts, which is the active ingredient in Adderall.**

The shortage is due to several factors. Teva Pharmaceuticals, the largest manufacturer of these drugs in the United States, couldn't hire enough workers for its packaging line this summer. Teva fixed that issue, but a recent Bloomberg report claims its shortage may last until March.


There has also been an increased demand for the drug as more people are being diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). And finally, there is a global shortage of the active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) used to make amphetamine mixed salts. All of these factors have combined to create a perfect storm that has led to severe shortages of Adderall across the country.



# WALGREENS CHANGES THE WAY IT RANKS ITS PHARMACISTS

Walgreens has announced that it is changing the way it rates its pharmacists. The old system of task-based metrics will be replaced with a new system that focuses on patient care and outcomes. This change will impact more than 24,000 pharmacists and will help Walgreens retain its pharmacy staff at a time when the job market has tightened.

The new system of evaluation will focus on behaviors that support patient care and enhance the patient experience. Walgreens is making this change in an effort to retain its pharmacy staff. The move also comes as Walgreens is “laying the groundwork” for pharmacists to take part in new areas of care, such as testing and treating routine illness.



Welcome news  
for pharmacists  
who have long  
felt that their  
work was being  
judged unfairly  
by task-based  
metrics



# **A SHORTAGE OF CHILDREN'S MEDICATION IN CANADA**

**A Canada-wide shortage of children's medication, amid a surge of respiratory infections, has forced some Ontario parents to head south of the border in search of solutions.**





# THE WORSENING MEDICINE SHORTAGE IN GREECE



Greece is the EU country with the lowest prices for medicines, making exports to countries like France, Germany or the UK very profitable for pharmacies.

In recent years, parallel exports have been on the rise as pharmacies seek to take advantage of this price difference. As a result, many pharmacies now stock only those medicines that are in high demand in other countries, leading to shortages of key medicines in Greece.





# **CARDIOVASCULAR DRUG SHORTAGES EXPECTED TO CONTINUE UNTIL 2024**



**The European Medicines Agency (EMA) has reported shortages of two acute heart attack treatments, alteplase and tenecteplase, and expects these shortages to continue until 2024. These shortages are especially problematic because they affect treatments used in urgent care. The reasons for the shortages are rising demand and cost-effective manufacturing challenges. An aging population amplifies cardiovascular drug shortages.**





## **INDIA: ALARMING SHORTAGES OF DRUGS AND MEDICAL PERIPHERALS**

The shortages of essential drugs and medical peripherals at RML Hospital in Delhi is a cause for concern. Poor patients who rely on the hospital for affordable treatment are being forced to buy these items from outside at exorbitant prices. This has resulted in surgeries being postponed due to the lack of essential items. We hope that the hospital authorities are able to resolve this issue soon so that patients can get the treatment they need without having to worry about the cost.



Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital in Delhi is short of drugs, medical peripherals, antibiotics, and surgery precaution kits, leaving poor patients struggling to afford treatment. According to doctors, patients are being forced to buy these items from outside the hospital at exorbitant prices.

This has resulted in surgeries being postponed due to the lack of essential items. We spoke to some of the pharmacists, doctors, and suppliers to find out more about the situation.

## **SUPPLIERS STRUGGLE TO KEEP UP WITH DEMAND**



# WINTER MEDICINE SHORTAGES IN ISRAEL

**Israeli health  
maintenance  
organizations (HMOs)  
and private pharmacies  
are warning their  
members of an  
impending severe  
shortage of winter  
medicines.**

**According to the report,  
the shortages are due to  
logistics problems  
combined with high  
demand.**

**Logistics problems combined with high  
demand are causing the shortages.**



# Impact of Shortages on the Pharmaceutical Industry in Türkiye



The problem began in February of this year, when the Turkish Medicines and Medical Devices Agency (TMDA) set the 2022 exchange rate for medical products at 6.29 Turkish lira for 1 Euro. This rate is used by pharmaceutical companies when selling imported products to warehouses and pharmacies. However, the Euro/lira exchange rate has remained above 15 tl per euro throughout most of this year. As a result, there is a significant gap between the TMDA's rate and the market rate.

**TMDA needs to  
revise its  
exchange rate**







# The Czech Republic's Healthcare Problem



Pharmacies around the country are reporting shortages of several prescription and over-the-counter drugs, including penicillin, ibuprofen, cholesterol medicines, and allergy tablets.

The reasons for the shortages include supply-chain issues, production problems, and corporate financial decisions



# MEDICINE SHORTAGES IN JORDAN

## IMPORTED VS. LOCAL

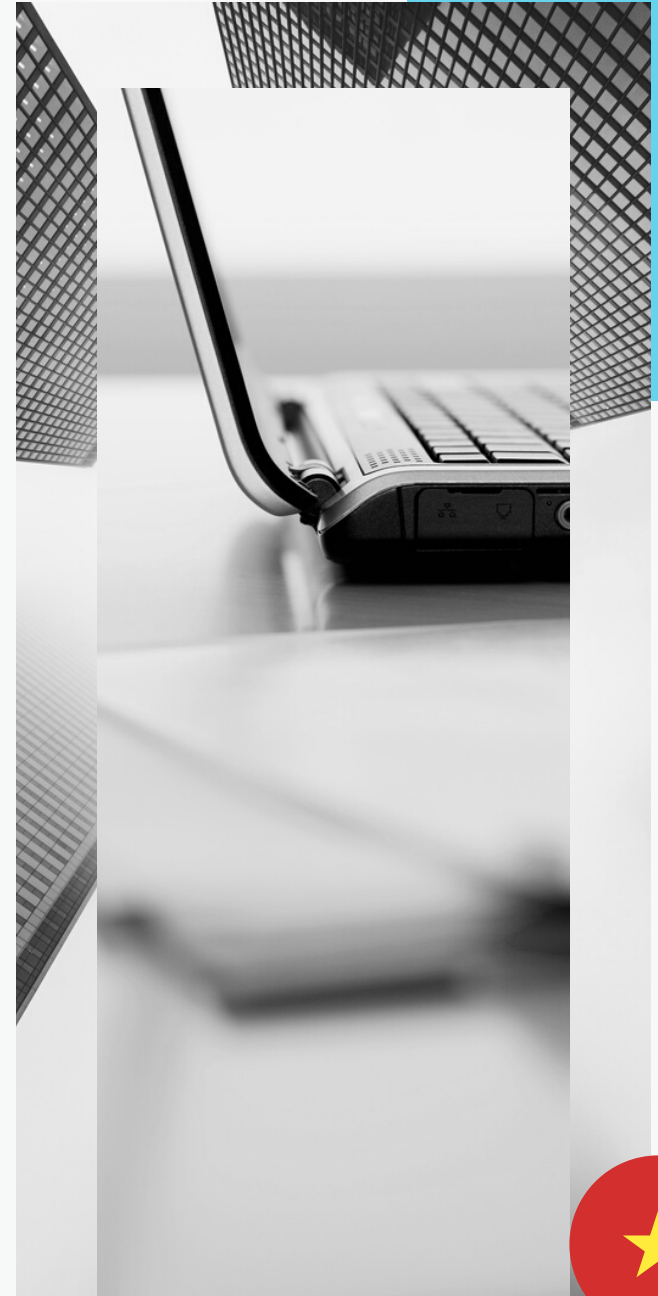
The issue of drug shortages is still making the rounds in Jordan, made more confusing by pharmacists' assurances that the problem is real, and authorities', including the Jordan Food and Drug Administration (JFDA), silence or outright denial that the problem exists.





# Vietnam Prime Minister Orders MOH to Address Drug Shortages

shortcomings in legal mechanisms and a lack of law provisions on bidding are blamed for a prolonged shortage of drugs and medical equipment in medical facilities in the country. About 90 per cent of legal documents fail to keep up with the real situation



# **ISOTOPE SHORTAGE LOOMS AS MECHANICAL FAILURE DELAYS PRODUCTION**



**The nuclear medicine community should be advised that there is an impending shortage of molybdenum-99 (Mo-99)/technetium-99m (Tc-99m), according to a communication shared by Nuclear Medicine Europe (NMEU).**



# FDA WARNS OF TRACHEOSTOMY TUBE SHORTAGE

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a warning Monday of a nationwide shortage of tracheostomy tubes. The agency said the shortage was due to difficulties in raw material procurement and would most likely impact pediatric patients.

They will be affected by the limited supply of tubes with similar functionality as ICU Medical's Bivona, that are made from flexible silicone and easier to use in children. The health regulator has recommended reusing tracheostomy tubes after following proper sanitary procedures in order to deal with the current shortage.







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