



Drug Shortages

Latest from around
the world

A black and white photograph of a workspace. In the foreground, a laptop is open on a wooden table, displaying a website with multiple images. To the left of the laptop is a professional video camera with a large lens. In front of the laptop, a tablet lies flat, showing the text "March 2022". The background shows a bright, open-plan office or studio with other people and equipment visible in the distance.

March 2022



War in Ukraine

drug shortages now occurring

4 Children with cancer evacuated. Lack of drugs. Children who were sick and in more serious conditions were stuck in Kiev as no option to transport: 25 at the Cancer Institute and 20 at the Institute of Neurosurgery are stranded.

12 tiny newborns evacuated to basement of hospital in Dnipro to hide from bombing

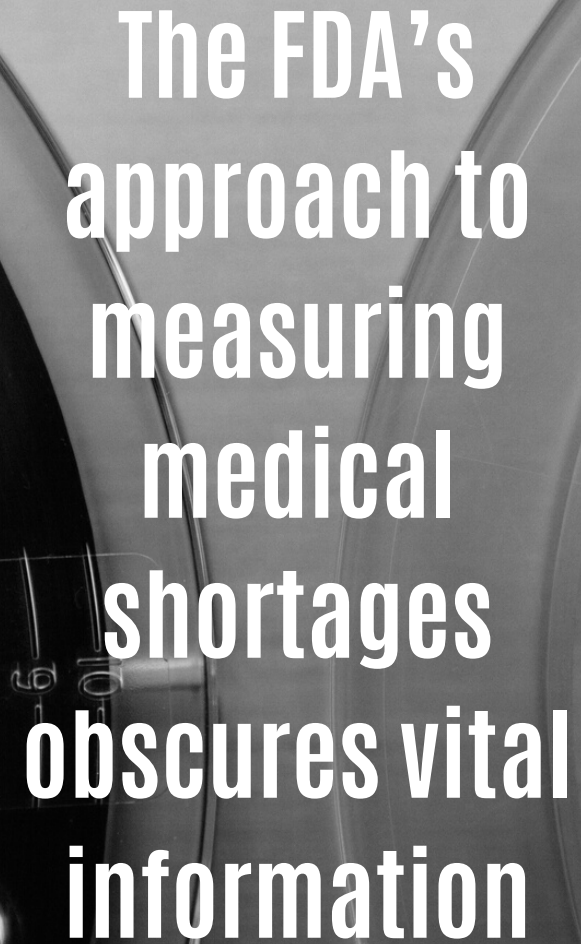
The Covid-19 pandemic has laid bare multiple weaknesses in supply chains

According to the FDA, the number of drug and biologic shortages increased steeply before the pandemic, from a low of 41 at the end of 2017 to 76 at the end of 2019, then grew to 86 by the end of 2020.

The total number of drug and biologic shortages reached 125 on 16 February 2022, a number approaching all-time weekly highs of 140 in 2012 and 2013.

Currently, the FDA identifies shortages—periods when demand exceeds supply at prevailing prices—using opaque and arbitrary criteria. The agency states that it uses information from manufacturers and distributors and market-share data to establish whether a shortage exists, without explaining how it determines the existence of excess demand. The approach does not comply with information-quality guidelines issued in 2002 by the Office of Management and Budget, which stipulate that agencies “disseminating influential scientific, financial, or statistical information” should provide “a high degree of transparency about data and methods to facilitate the reproducibility of such information by qualified third parties.” Because the FDA plays a key role in tackling drug shortages, its conclusions that shortages exist and the information it uses to make such determinations are surely influential.

Unfortunately, FDA determinations are anything but transparent and reproducible. The FDA reported preventing 199 shortages in 2020, the most since 2012, and up from 126 in 2016. But given that the FDA has made it impossible for the public to understand just what—in the agency’s view—constitutes a shortage, its claim to be preventing more shortages is unverifiable.



The FDA's
approach to
measuring
medical
shortages
obscures vital
information

EMA and Primary advance in a drug surveillance network



European organizations of Family medicine and the European Medicines Agency (EMA) have reaffirmed their strategic lines of joint work with the aim of further strengthening the collaboration between the two.

The purpose of the regulatory body is to involve more General Medicine physicians in the processes of elaboration and follow-up of medicines. While, for their part, Family doctors want to take advantage of their extensive database and become a drug shortage monitoring network and adverse effects.

Source



German Tamoxifen Shortage Shows Consequences Of Cost Containment



Medicines for Europe has warned that supply issues around breast cancer treatment tamoxifen in Germany demonstrate the damaging effects of European cost-containment measures.

Call for "urgent need to revise unsustainable pricing and tendering policies."

\$15m pharmaceutical manufacturing factory plans for Maliban



SRI LANKA

currently imports its entire requirement of drugs for the treatment of cancer.

CONSTRUCTION

From June 2022, the construction of the factory will commence

FOCUS

For the first few years of operations, the factory will focus on Mab drugs for cancer. After bringing in the required technology then commence the manufacturing of the drugs for cancer

Cambodia - Depleting stock: Rush to buy C-19 home- treatment drug causing shortage

Following the government's directive that Covid-19 patients doing home treatment should only use Molnatis (Molunpiravir 200 mg) capsules, a rush to buy the drug has led to an apparent shortage.



AN ACUTE
SHORTAGE OF
MEDICATION
USED TO
TREAT FEVER,
A COMMON
SYMPTOM IN
COVID-19
PATIENTS,
PERSISTS IN
PUNJAB

**Punjab Health Secretary
Imran Sikandar Baloch
has stated that there is
no shortage of fever
medicine in the province
and 68.6 million pills are
available in the market.**

Growing anger over the government
information as pharmacies are rationing out
the medication in order to maintain a
minimum level of inventory.

BMS NOTIFIED TGA OF SHORTAGES OF MULTIPLE PRESENTATIONS OF ABATACEPT PRODUCTS

Abatacept is used to treat certain types of arthritis including rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, and polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis. Abatacept is listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) for severe active rheumatoid arthritis.



The shortages occurred because of manufacturing capacity constraints, supplier component challenges and shipment delays. There is no impact to the quality of abatacept.

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Drugs Shortage At POMGEN

Area Medical Stores Are In Trouble With Not Enough Medical Supplies For Hospitals Across The Country.



Area medical stores do not have enough supplies for hospital across the country. This means users of public health system will need to buy their own medication. For the poor, this is an uncertain fate

Papua New Guinea

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