



Patients in Need

REPORT

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October 2022

Australia



Worst Antibiotic Shortage in 15 Years



Australia is currently experiencing the worst antibiotic shortage GP has seen in 15 years. This shortage is leaving general practice doctors struggling to prescribe the best medications for their patients.

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) rural health chair Michael Clements said GPs are struggling to prescribe common antibiotic medications, as well as other painkillers. The RACGP is calling on the federal government to address this issue as a matter of urgency.



Japan

Japan provides more support for medicine procurement in Sri Lanka



The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has decided to provide additional support to procure medicine, responding to serious medicine shortages in Sri Lanka.

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.



Vietnam

Supply shortage pushes up prices of many drugs



Vietnamese pharmacists are struggling to secure enough supplies of key drugs. Currently, two anaesthetic drugs originating from France, including Lino-caine and Adelanin, have suffered a shortage of supply for more than a month. Because they could not buy French drugs, some hospitals and clinics had to switch to buying and using Korean ones.

The shortage is mainly due to disruptions in supply chains. Additionally, the current prices of these items compared to the winning bids have increased significantly, so many companies cannot bid at the old prices because they will suffer losses.

According to some hospitals, the cause of the delay in drug supply is that the licence to import anaesthetics expired in March 2022, pending completion of procedures by the Drug Administration of Vietnam under the Ministry of Health (MoH).



Waiting times

Patients having trouble obtaining medicine

The Pharmacists' Defence Association, which represents 35,000 members, has described it as a 'worrying situation which is also being seen throughout the UK. Residents have complained about the length of time they have to wait for their prescriptions and of pharmacy closures.



Swaziland

Swaziland is facing a major shortage of drugs, causing the government to increase its spending on the Health Ministry by 50%. However, despite this increase, shortages persist.

It has been discovered recently that drugs went missing after being dispatched from the Central Medical Stores (CMS).

It is still unclear exactly why the drugs are disappearing. However, it is believed that they are being sold on the black market. This is concerning because it means that patients who need these drugs are not able to get them. It also puts a strain on the already-limited healthcare resources in Swaziland.

**Public Outcry over
Drug Shortages in
Swaziland**



Ireland

Pharmacists Spending Hours Every Week Sourcing Medicines



Pharmacists are spending hours every week trying to source medicines that are completely unavailable and going back to prescribers for alternatives, leading to hours more work for pharmacies.

The Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) has confirmed that more than 160 medicines are currently in short supply. This includes common medicines such as paracetamol and EpiPens, as well as vital anti-psychotic drugs and tranquillisers.

This means many elderly and psychiatric patients have to 'abruptly come off one medication and start another', according to one medical source at a Dublin facility.



United Kingdom



Shortage of blood could lead to cancellation of surgeries

British health officials issued a warning Wednesday 12th October 2022 that non-urgent hospital operations could be cancelled due to a shortage in blood stocks.

The warning came as NHS Blood and Transplant, which collects blood and other tissues, issued its first "amber alert" warning which will last for 4 weeks to allow stocks to be replenished, particularly of O-type blood.



France

France is now also facing a medicine shortage. The supply of drugs Doliprane and Efferalgan have been strained since July, but with a winter wave of illness quickly approaching, the problem has the potential to become much worse.

Doctors are being asked not to prescribe Paracetamol to patients "who do not have an immediate need for it." As of Thursday, there were more than 63,000 new cases of COVID-19 counted in France, according to Public Health France.

In order to combat drugs in short supply, the ANSM has issued guidance to health professionals.





Burma

Every pharmacy is almost out of medicine

In Rakhine State, many cities are facing acute shortages of medicine due to the Military Council's ban on importation of medicine.

This has forced medical companies and pharmacies in Rakhine to urgently seek permission to import medicine through the Traders Association.

Not only hospitals and clinics, but also ordinary people are facing many hardships due to the lack of medical supplies. Medical companies and pharmacies in Rakhine will send the petition to the Traders Association in Yangon on October 21st in order to ease the hardship that is being faced by Rakhine people.





GSK Suspends manufacturing of Panadol in Pakistan

In a regulatory filing to the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Friday, the pharmaceutical company said it's "forced to declare" force majeure — a condition in contracts that frees all parties from liability in an extraordinary event — with respect to the production of Panadol tablets, Panadol Extra tablets and children's Panadol liquid range. These products are based on paracetamol, a generic drug for reducing pain and fever. There's been a shortage of Panadol products in the local market with increased demand amid a rising number of dengue and malaria cases.



Botswana

The Continuing Crisis of Medicine Shortage in Botswana



For the past several months, Botswana has been dealing with a shortage of medication. This has been a major problem for many people, especially those who suffer from chronic diseases and require constant medication.

One of the main causes is the lack of funding for the procurement of medicines. The government has not been allocating enough money to purchase medicines, which has led to many suppliers simply running out of stock.

The shortage of medication is also due to the fact that many pharmaceutical companies have stopped manufacturing certain drugs. This is because these drugs are not profitable enough for them to justify the cost of production. In some cases, patents on certain medications have expired, and generic versions are not being produced. This has left patients with no other option but to buy the more expensive brand-name drugs.



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