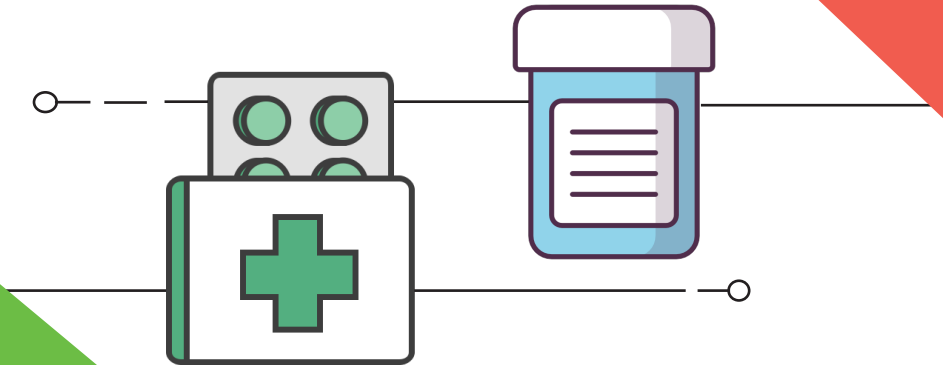


2018 EAHP Survey on Medicines Shortages

Hospital managers



- *Medicines shortages were reported to be a major issue faced in hospitals across Europe.*
- *In terms of delivering the best care to patients and/or operating the hospital pharmacy, an overwhelming 90% of respondents answered 'Yes', providing strong evidence that shortages of medicines is an extremely common problem in hospitals today. 7% of respondents answered 'No', and 3% were unsure.*
- *Antimicrobial agents were the type of medicine most frequently reported as having shortage problems, with 77%.*
- *The most frequent response when asked how often does your hospital pharmacy experience medicines shortages was 'weekly' with 39% of the responses, followed by 'daily' (36%), 'monthly' (16%) and 'occasionally' (11%), which shows most hospitals are experiencing shortages on a frequent basis.*

What impact medicines shortages had on patient care?



59% care delayed



31% cancellations of care



25% medication errors



25% suboptimal treatment



20% increased length of hospital stay

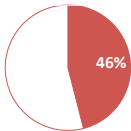


5% readmissions due to treatment failure

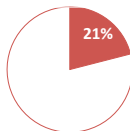


1% death

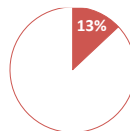
Amount of time spent dealing with medicines shortages



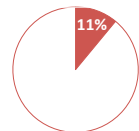
'up to 5 hours'



'up to 10 hours'



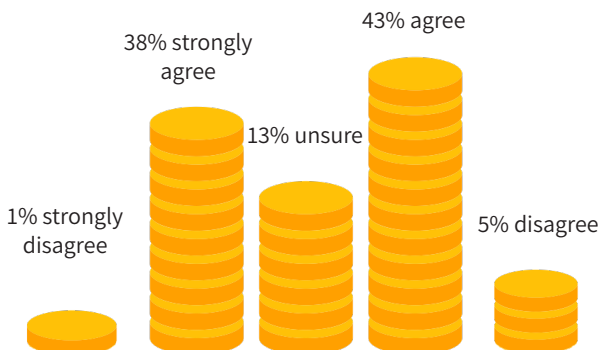
'more than 15 hours'



'less than 1 hour'

Are medicines shortages in my hospital having a negative impact on my overall budget?

Budgetary and resource issues caused by medication shortages can be due to having to pay more to procure a drug from another supplier or paying more for an alternative drug, possibly having to devote more staff time to the issue or are due to the impact on the patient (such as potentially increased length of hospital stay or readmissions).



Hospital pharmacists' experiences with shortages

When hospital pharmacists were asked to provide details about their own personal experiences with medication shortages, one theme that emerged in the responses was the lack of reliable or timely information from manufacturers and suppliers on the commencement or duration of shortages.

- *“Increased amount of time spent collecting information from pharmaceutical companies, wholesalers, other pharmacies, pharmaceutical salesmen to find available substitutes and/or remainders of stock” – Austria*

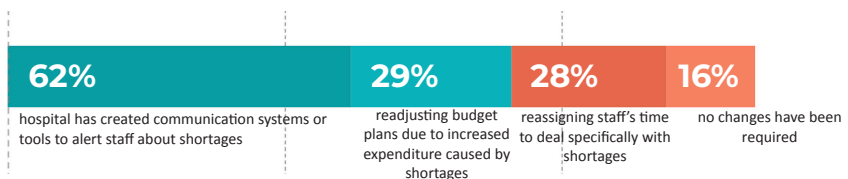
There are some comments which suggest that the more advanced notice the hospital has on a shortage, they are able to manage the situation better, but sometimes notice of a shortage is not given and only found out about when products are not delivered.

- *“Not good. I found about shortage when wholesaler cannot deliver drugs when I order them.” – Croatia*
- *“Lack of information on availability from manufacturer and their wholesalers, lack of pre-warning of shortage resulting in panic buying, excess stock holding by some trusts. lots of time spent chasing orders, getting conflicting information, lots of time wasting trying to sort out what can be used as a replacement.” – UK*

Some hospitals have taken measures to deal with shortages, hiring staff dedicated to the issue or determining shortage durations based on previous data.

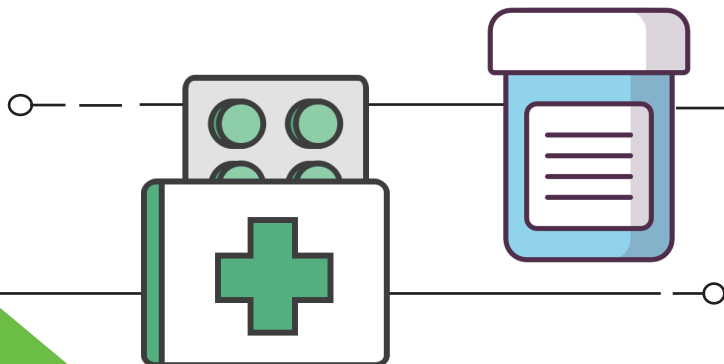
- *“We document every delivery shortage and can therefore determine the typical duration.” – Germany*
- *“... I have to create a ‘shortage memo’ for all relevant medical, nursing & pharmacy staff to inform them of the latest shortage (every time), proposed alternative, expected timeframe for shortage & any other important information (if alternative product is majorly different to original/needs manipulation etc).” – Ireland*
- *“For many issues we have sufficient stock to see us through to the end of the problem and we have to keep higher than desirable stock levels to mitigate against supply issues. Main problems are caused by single supplier products where there is no alternative often on critical lines. We have a full time post who spends all her time managing supply shortages and we are looking at needing to add addition resource to support this due to the growing issues.” – UK*

What changes (if any) in practice has your hospital needed to make in order to deal with the shortages problem?



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Hospital managers



European Association of
Hospital Pharmacists

Boulevard Brand Whitlock 87
Box 11 (4th floor) 1200 Brussels

