



Public webinar on shortages: putting patients first

4 November 2025

14:00 - 16:00

Broadcast and recorded

Medicine shortages are a global issue and a critical public health challenge that is at the top of the agenda of EU policymakers, regulators and healthcare providers. Shortages impact all medicines with significant consequences for patient care. They can lead to medicine rationing and delay of critical treatments, require patients to use alternative treatments which may be less effective or may increase the risk of medication errors due to unfamiliarity with the new regimen. Many factors contribute to shortages, such as supply chain disruptions, rising demand, regulatory challenges, economic factors, and geopolitical events or emergencies. The COVID-19 pandemic compounded the problem of medicine shortages and EMA implemented several strategies and initiatives to enhance monitoring, improve transparency, and ensure availability of medicines.

Join us for this webinar to learn more about the role of EMA and its network of national competent authorities in the Member States and the European Commission (also known as the EU regulatory network) in managing shortages. We will discuss how we are addressing shortages and what actions you can take to prepare for and help manage them.

Some aspects related to shortages such as pricing issues lie outside the remit of EMA and will not be covered in this event. However, this meeting is an opportunity to share information and views on those aspects that are part of EMA's responsibilities.

This event will be broadcast live. EU citizens are invited to ask questions to the panellists using Slido.

Objectives

- To inform patients, consumers and healthcare professionals about the EU regulatory processes in place to manage shortages
- To help patients, consumers and healthcare professionals find information about shortages
- To discuss how they can help prevent and manage shortages
- To listen to their needs, expectations and concerns

Agenda

Chaired by Juan Garcia Burgos, Head of Public and Stakeholder Engagement, EMA

14:00 Opening session

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| Welcome and introduction | 5' |
| Melanie Carr (Head of Stakeholders and Communication Division, EMA) | |
| Objectives and agenda | 5' |
| Juan Garcia Burgos (Head of Public and Stakeholder Engagement, EMA) | |

14:10 Understanding shortages and their impact

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| What are shortages, what is their impact and why do they happen? | 10' |
| Steffen Thirstrup (Chief Medical Officer, EMA) | |

14:20 EU regulators' role in preventing and managing shortages

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| Role of EMA and national regulatory authorities | 10' |
| Emmanuel Cormier (Head of Regulatory Science and Innovation, EMA) | |
| Examples of shortage prevention and management | 15' |
| Monica Dias, (Head of Availability and Supply of Medicines and Devices, EMA) | |

14:45 Patients, consumers and healthcare professionals can help prevent and manage shortages

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| Where to find information about shortages? | 10' |
| Inga Abed (Public and Stakeholders Engagement Department, EMA) | |
| What can you do to prevent and manage shortages? | 30' |
| Ancel·la Santos Quintano (Senior Health Policy Officer, BEUC) | |
| Jorge Batista (Senior Professional Affairs Advisor, PGEU) | |

Solène Jouan (Policy officer EPF)
Isabel Proaño (Director of Policy & Communications EFA)

15:25 Public Q&A session

Comments and questions from the public **30'**
All speakers

15:55 Concluding remarks

Juan Garcia Burgos, Head of Public and Stakeholder Engagement, EMA **5'**

List of speakers

Ancel·la Santos Quintano, Senior Health Policy Officer, BEUC

Emmanuel Cormier, Head of Regulatory Science and Innovation, EMA

Jorge Batista, Senior Professional Affairs Advisor, PGEU

Juan Garcia Burgos, Head of Public and Stakeholder Engagement, EMA

Isabel Proaño, Director of Policy & Communications EFA

Melanie Carr, Head of Stakeholders and Communication Division, EMA

Monica Dias, Head of Availability and Supply of Medicines and Devices, EMA

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Steffen Thirstrup, Chief Medical Officer, EMA