



EFA

European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients' Associations

The role of patients in preventing and managing medicine shortages

EMA public webinar on shortages: putting patients first
4 November 2025

Presentation EMA public webinar on shortages: putting patients first



Marcia Podestà

President of EFA

European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients' Associations

President of Food Allergy Italia

marcia.podesta@efanet.org

EFA Patients' Community

The European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients' Associations (EFA) is an **umbrella organisation** representing people affected by allergy, atopic eczema, asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) across Europe.

48 National
associations

28 European
countries

+200 Million
patients

EFA involvement in shortages

Involvement

- **Members working groups** on Allergy, Asthma, COPD, Atopic Eczema and Food Allergy
- As a member of the **EMA Patients and Consumers Working Party** EMA PCWP
- As a member of the EC **Critical Medicines Alliance**
- As a member of the Health and Emergency Response **Authority (DG HERA) Civil Society Forum**
- As a member of EPF's task force on shortages



Patient perspective into legislation

- [Response](#) to the Critical Medicines Act (CMA) Call for Evidence
- [Response](#) to the consultation prior to defining the EU's Stockpiling Strategy
- [Response](#) to the consultation prior to defining the EU's Strategy for medical counter measures for public health threats
- [Response](#) to the consultation on the revision of the EU Pharmaceutical Legislation
- Upcoming: EFA response to EU Biotech Act

February 2024: European Lung Health Group High-level forum on respiratory disease involving European Commission services.

Shortages in our disease areas

Medicines

Medicines labelled as in a shortage by EMA:

- Asthma, COPD: [Salbutamol inhalation products](#)
- Lung diseases, respiratory tract diseases and neoplasms: [hycamtin](#)



Good news – in the area of bacterial infections, EMA [resolved](#) the shortage of amoxicillin in June 2025

A recent Special Report from the **European Court of Auditors**: shortages will continue to persist if we do not take coordinated action to address root causes of our problems

Medical devices

Risks for shortages for **critical drug-device combinations** under the revision of the EU F-Gases regulation

Shortages in our disease areas

Example – Salbutamol shortage in most EU/EAA countries

- Used to treat asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and similar conditions
- Life-saving for many patients with severe conditions
- Under an EMA shortage mandate and in **critical shortage** according to European Court of Auditors

Cause for shortage:

- Increased demand (inhalation products)
- Current manufacturing not able to keep up
- Other manufacturing issues

18 EU Member States are affected by the shortage

Consequences: Patient health at risk

EFA action

- contact to EMA
- webinar with members to understand the issue,
- reviewed EMA public information on the shortage
- contacted main producer for information
- EFA listed on EMA's webpage for information on the salbutamol shortages

Shortages in our disease areas

Example – Syringe Adrenaline Auto-injectors (AAI) in Italy

The shortage affected all European countries, each of them differently

AAIs are a lifesaving treatment used to treat **serious** allergic reactions (anaphylaxis) in an emergency. An AAI injects a single, fixed dose of adrenaline.

Cause for shortage: Shortages are driven by a technology transfer delay



Actions by Food Allergy Italia:

- Open channel with Italian Medicines Agency & manufacturer, highlighting critical issues and solutions
- Request to prioritise small-dose autoinjectors (150mcg), mostly needed by children
- Raised the issue at EFA level
- Mapped patients' concerns across Italy
- Dialogue with other patient associations
- Communication of shortage to EMA

What can patients and healthcare professionals do to prevent and manage shortages?

1. Avoid Stockpiling Medicines
2. Report Shortages or Issues
3. Use Alternatives Responsibly
4. Respect Prescribing Practices
5. Stay Informed
6. Support Transparency and Advocacy

Patient organisations as key stakeholder in shortage situations

THANK YOU!

Marcia Podestà

marcia.podesta@efanet.org



efanet.org



@EFAPatients



@European Federation of Allergy and
Airways Diseases Patients Associations



@efapathents



@EFAPatients