



PRESS RELEASE

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Supply shortages

Leem favours concerted action by all stakeholders to introduce practical solutions

In common with all stakeholders (patient associations, healthcare professionals and health authorities), LEEM - the French Pharmaceutical Companies Association - is actively concerned by pressures on the supply chain that have the potential to interrupt supplies.

This public health challenge is being responded to proactively by manufacturers, which have introduced tighter stock monitoring measures to anticipate the risks of supply shortages. They are collaborating actively with ANSM (French National Agency for Medicines and Health Products Safety) to provide information on low stock levels and offer patients alternative solutions, are setting up shortage management plans for drugs of major therapeutic significance, and providing healthcare professionals with emergency call centres.

However, and despite the recent tightening of legislation that has led to a statistical increase in the number of reports, **the increase of supply shortages is a reality in France and abroad.**

These situations are difficult to forecast, because supply shortages are never the result of a single reason or a single responsibility. On the contrary, their origins involve multiple factors, and the finger of blame can be pointed at any stakeholder in the drugs supply chain, from raw materials suppliers to manufacturers, distributors, shippers, hospital pharmacists and retail pharmacists. The failure of any link in this chain can then have repercussions throughout the supply system.

As a result, **it will not be possible to combat shortage supplies effectively unless we engage very quickly with a collective response that addresses every aspect of the problem.**

So it is in this spirit that a committee of the French Senate has been working on 'supply shortages of medicines and vaccines'. The outcomes of this fact-finding mission include a number of proposals that could form the basis for the deeper level of concerted action that LEEM is calling for.

Proposals that could be usefully considered include:

- The production facilities for certain strategically important raw materials being relocated in Europe
- Increased manufacturing capacity in Europe as a result of incentive policies
- Larger stocks of the most important drugs, and the development of multi-country packaging to facilitate the circulation of products within Europe
- Improved hospital purchasing processes and the revision of prices below the cost of production for certain drugs
- Harmonisation of certain European rules, such as vaccine programme schedules

- Improved ability to anticipate supply shortages by implementing a shared information system and intensifying early-stage dialogue between stakeholders.

“The priority for pharmaceutical companies is to provide patients with their treatments safely and as quickly as possible. LEEM will work alongside government agencies to put in place an action plan shared by all stakeholders to deliver practical responses to the issue of supply shortages in a spirit of active listening and concerted action”, says Philippe Tchong, Chairman of Leem.

Find all the latest information at: <https://www.leem.org/espace-medias>

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