

Introduction

Medicine shortages remain a global concern and tackling them are high on our national and EU agenda. Shortages can lead to negative outcomes for patients and multiple stakeholders, such as pharmacies, may experience inconvenience from it. While the problems should be tackled at the core of the causes, short-term negative outcomes for the quality of life of patients also urges direct actions. In the Netherlands we are currently exploring possible solutions regarding national medicinal stocks and monitoring and we would like to learn from other best practices or national policy approaches. Unfortunately, there is no current up to date complete overview on the different policies of European countries on national medicines stocks. Therefore, we would like to ask you a few questions about your national policy and methods regarding (national) stocks and monitoring of those stocks. The collected information is solely used to gain insight about what is happening in the EU. We can imagine that this information is useful for you as well. Therefore, if you would like to see the results, we are happy to share our knowledge with you when the data collection is finished.

The deadline for answering this questionnaire is the 2nd of November. If you would prefer having a call to answer these questions and discuss this topic, please inform us; we are happy to schedule an appointment with you! If there are any other questions or comments from your side, please do not hesitate to contact us. Our contact details are below.

Thank you for your time and cooperation!

Questions

1. Please state your country

5.1.2a _____

National policy on medicine stocks

2. Is there a national policy in place that quantifies to have "sufficient medicine stock"?
(**note:** not emergency medicines stocks/COVID-related medicines stocks)
 - a. If so, please go to **question 3**.
 - b. If not, is your country currently having such a policy under discussion? Please elaborate below and proceed to **question 7**.

Not (yet) officially under discussion

3. How much stock on medicines does your policy require?

4. Does the policy on medicine stock apply to all medicines or a selected few?
 - All medicines
 - Selected few
 - Other, namely _____

Optional: explanation box

5. Is the medicine stock mandatory or voluntary?

- Mandatory
- Voluntary
- Other, namely _____

6. Is the required stock ...

- dynamic* (i.e. the stock has to be replenished all the time until X amount of stock)
- static* (i.e. once in a time the stock is being refilled until X amount of stock)
- Other, namely _____

Monitoring

7. Does your country have a monitoring scheme in place to gain insights in medicine stocks?

- Yes, all medicines
- Yes, selected medicines
- No (please proceed to question 14)

8. Is the data provision for the monitor mandatory or voluntary? (e.g. in the case of a wholesaler is the information provider, does he have an obligation to do so or is it on a voluntary basis?)

- Mandatory
- Voluntary
- Other, namely _____

Optional: Explanation box

10. What is the working method and approach of this monitor (f.e. real-time monitoring, monthly/weekly/daily reports, one time manual requests or other)?

11. At which level does data collection happen (f.e. wholesaler level, supplier level, hospital level/apothecary level)?

12. Who is/are the owner(s) of the monitor?

- Government party
- Private party
- Other, namely _____

13. Do you have additional information that you would like to share with us about medicine stocks and monitoring?