

Infosheet:

Towards better prevention of medicine shortages

EMA has published key principles and examples of good practices to support patients' and healthcare professionals' organisations in preventing and managing shortages of human medicines.



What patients' organisations can do to prevent shortages of medicines

Develop **observatories** in collaboration with national authorities to **collect and analyse information** from patients on shortages and their early signs.

Work with national authorities to develop criteria and a methodology for **registries of essential and critical medicines**.

Communication and awareness raising among members on causes of shortages, the safe use of alternative medicines, risks of stockpiling and where to find information on ongoing shortages.

What healthcare professionals' organisations can do to prevent shortages of medicines

Develop **observatories** in collaboration with national authorities to **collect and analyse information** from healthcare professionals on shortages and their early signs.

Work with national authorities to develop criteria and a methodology for **registries of essential and critical medicines**.

Communication and awareness raising among members on causes of shortages, the safe use of alternative medicines, risks of stockpiling and where to find information on ongoing shortages.

Work with national authorities to ensure **reporting, electronic prescribing and alert systems are linked up** to minimise workload and optimise information flows.

Promote **transparency in the supply chain** so pharmacists can identify alternative suppliers more easily.

Collaborate with health authorities to put in place measures to **avoid stockpiling of medicines**, when needed.

Liaise with health authorities to issue guidance on **dose-sparing measures**.

Encourage healthcare professionals to carry out shortage **risk assessments** for medicines with high clinical impact.

