



Joint Action on Shortages of Medicines

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Support action to mitigate shortages of medicines

Policy context

- Shortages of medicines are a longstanding concern in the EU
- The COVID-19 pandemic has placed significant pressure on the medicines supply chain
- Action aims to address medicines shortages in general, which will in turn help to address crisis situations such as the COVID-19 pandemic

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Objectives, Scope and activities

- Enhance MS cooperation in:
 - identifying the root causes of observed shortages of medicines;
 - monitoring and reporting medicine shortages;
 - reducing observed medicine shortages and managing them; and
 - reducing the likelihood of medicines shortages via preventative strategies.

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Objectives, Scope and activities

- The joint action aims to:
 - establish a coordinating structure;
 - structure the collection and consolidate the analysis of relevant data and statistics, including an analysis of root causes;
 - develop IT solutions to monitor and manage medicines shortages;
 - define preventive strategies based on observed root causes of shortages;
 - identify, assess and exchange best practices on systems for monitoring supply and responding to shortages.

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Expected Results and Impact

- Better coordination of MS actions to prevent, mitigate, monitor, manage and report medicines shortages
- Identification, analysis and definition of best practices to address medicines shortages
- Improved availability and access to data on medicines shortages
- Improved detection and measurement of the decrease in the number of medicines shortages in the EU and Member States
- Better understanding of root causes of medicines shortages and the impact of policy measures
- A strategy for shortage prevention and an implementation plan

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Interest from Member States

	Yes	Maybe	No
Participation	AT, BE, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LI, LU, NO, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI		
Coordinating		IT	BE, CZ, DK, ES, FI, FR, HU, IE, IS, PL, PT, SI
Leading Work Package	RO	AT, BE, DK, ES, FI, FR, IT, PL, PT, SI	CZ, HU, IS

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Areas for discussion at next meeting in November

- Coordination
- Work package leaders
- Organisation of activities/deliverables