

Managing Critical Medicines Shortages

Victorian Medicines Roundtable
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Contents



Medicines Supply Chains are Complex, Challenges to Address.



Supply Chain Surety Function in HealthShare Victoria (HSV).



What HSV Surety has put in place.



What HSV is planning to implement and address.



Medicines Supply Chains are Complex, Challenges to Address

Health Sector supply chains are facing significant challenges resulting from COVID-19, natural disasters, geopolitical tension, climate change, and change in global markets.





Active ingredients, raw materials, packaging components produced in different countries. Final manufacturing and packaging in other countries - distributed globally.



Lack of consistent standard data to signal supply and quality concerns to regulators and healthcare providers. Supply disruptions are often detected reactively.



Australia < 2% of global medicines demand, >90% prescription medicines imported. Fragmented buying approach. No central forecasting.



Significant manual effort to secure supply, allocate stock, change clinical practices. Approx 400 current shortages listed on TGA database.



OFFICIAL

Supply Chain Surety Function in HealthShare Victoria (HSV)

We focus on state-wide supply chain risk mitigation and rapid centralised response to product outages.





A Supply Chain Task Force, commissioned by the Department of Health, and working with Safer Care Victoria established a Supply Chain Surety Function in HSV.



A primary focus of the Surety function is to maintain security of supply (products) to our public hospitals and minimise disruption to patient care.



Scope extends across all products which are important to health services including pharmaceuticals (is not constrained by contract status).



Team of Supply Chain professionals, we partner with clinicians to gain operational insights and clinical recommendations for alternate products and practices.



What HSV Surety has put in place



Critical Supplies Register (~ 300 medicines). This is a business continuity plan. Does not replace health services emergency management plans. Pharmaceutical reserve.



Governance and framework. Rapid incident management response. Supply chain risk assessment. Interjurisdiction and industry networks. **National Medical stockpile.**



Victoria's Medicines Availability Working Group. We partner with clinicians for operational insights and clinical recommendations for alternate products and practices.



Representation at National Medicines Availability Working Group (MAWG). Supporting development of national approach to shortages management.



Pharmaceutical stock on hand tool. Transparency of stock levels at Victoria's public hospitals, assists re-distribution in urgent situations.



What HSV is planning to implement and address



Supplier Relationship Management (SRM). Active supplier engagement. Improving demand signals and earlier warning of issues.



New operating model for the Victorian Pharmaceutical Reserve. Sustainable part of BAU supply chain.



HSV Procurement strategy for Pharmaceutical category. Contract management capability uplift.



Increase engagement with TGA and other jurisdictions. Opportunities to improve National supply.



Data and technology. Increase access to meaningful data from multiple sources. Artificial intelligence to support better forecasting, predict a demand surge.

