

WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

In Australia, there are currently 316 medicine shortage alerts listed by the TGA, with 39 listed as critical.

SIGNIFICANCE OF ISSUE:

“Around 90% of medicines in Australia are imported, leaving it particularly vulnerable to supply chain disruptions.”



Warnings about shortages have circulated for more than a decade.

In 2017, the Grattan Institute reported Australia overpays by \$500 million per year for prescription drugs; of seven commonly prescribed drugs, Australians paid on average five times the best international price.

Doctors prescribe things based on clinical decisions individually. However, because of the shortages, they cannot prescribe the best course of treatment. Therefore, it will lead to roadblocks in quality clinical care.



2-3 KEY USERS:

John is a physician that has type 2 diabetes.

Jennie is a mother with two children, one of which got a cold recently.

William is a GP in a remote region where there is only one pharmacy close by.



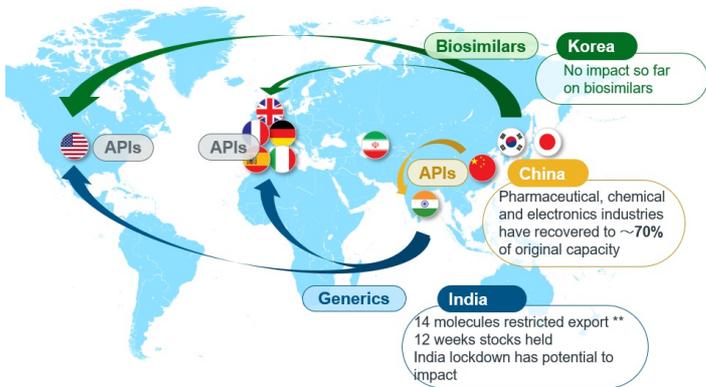
2-3 POINT OF VIEW STATEMENTS:

John had to increase the insulin he injects daily by 50% because of a spate shortage of Ozempic by a TikTok weight loss trend.

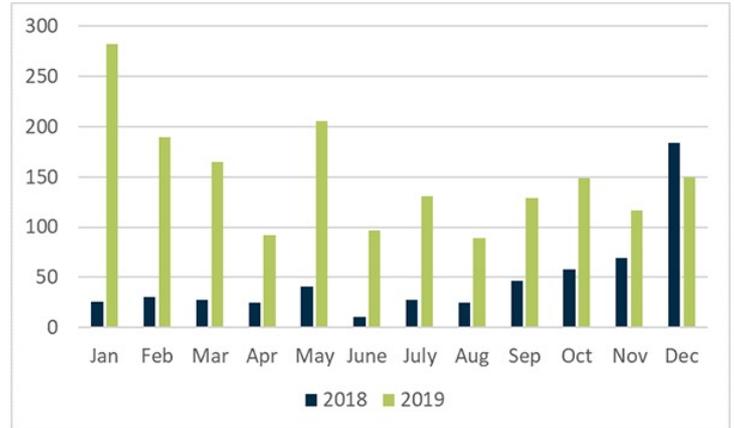
When Jennie wants to buy some Panadol at Chemist Warehouse, she finds that the shelf has been empty for some time.

William is struggling because of the shortage of antibiotics, so he needs to use intravenous drugs that need hospital admission.

KEY IMAGES: (2-3 key images with annotation)



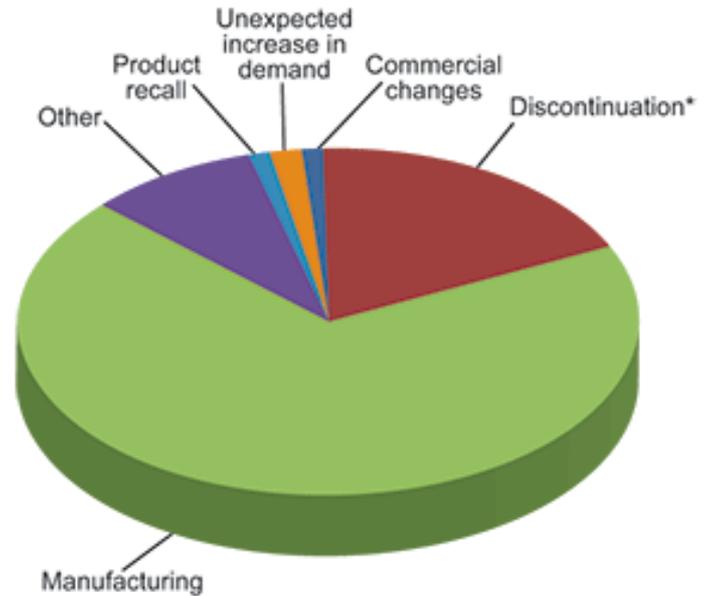
Drug's Global Supply Chain



Notifications of shortages comparison between 2018 and 2019

INDUSTRY SECTORS:

- Medicine active ingredient manufacturers
- Pharmaceutical industry
- Pharmacy
- General Practitioner
- Hospital
- Government
- General public



Reasons for shortages by TGA

SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

- <https://www.tga.gov.au/resources/publication/publications/medicine-shortages-report-first-12-months-mandatory-reporting-scheme>
- <https://www.tga.gov.au/poster-medicine-shortages-information-initiative-msii>
- <https://www.9news.com.au/national/australian-doctors-raise-concerns-about-antibiotic-medicine-shortage-exclusive/6c9922db-8ffd-4071-b9d3-7c239d2d2fd5>
- <https://apps.tga.gov.au/Prod/msi/search?shortagetype=Critical>
- <https://www.crikey.com.au/2022/10/12/critical-drug-shortages-diabetics-delay/>

Funded by