

# Press Release

## Medicines for Europe welcomes European Commission decision to enable secure supply of hospital medicines

*For Immediate Release*

Brussels, 08 April 2020

Medicines for Europe welcomes the [temporary framework adopted today by the European Commission](#) to facilitate cooperation initiatives aimed at securing supply of hospital medicines during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Medicines for Europe represents manufacturers of prescription medicines, supplying 67% of the European market. The outbreak of COVID-19 in Europe has caused concern about disruption in the supply of essential medicines to patients.

The surge in demand for Intensive Care Unit (ICU) medicines, mostly off-patent medicines, deserves particular EU-wide efforts. ICU medicines of critical importance to maintain patients on invasive mechanical ventilation include sedatives, muscle relaxants, analgesics, and antibiotics among others. These medicines are necessary, together with ventilators and trained healthcare professionals, to help patients with respiratory difficulties. All companies with a marketing approval/licence for injectable forms of these medicines are invited to contact Medicines for Europe if they want to help Europe and participate in the project in accordance with the Commission decision and guidelines.

In line with the EU solidarity principle, Medicines for Europe has developed a project which will assess the large demand spikes for these medicines in countries, working closely with the Commission and the EMA, and the support of countries, to best ensure their supply where they are needed most.

We warmly welcome the guidance of the European Commission on this issue. This is an important partnership to help countries get the supplies to battle COVID-19.

Adrian van den Hoven, Director General of Medicines for Europe stated: *“We thank the Commission for issuing a comfort letter and will fully comply with the guidance it requires. This European coordination is vital to ensure equitable access to patients. As we work on the issue of ICU medicines supply, we hope to continue to cooperate with the EU Institutions and Member States to help patients in all countries in Europe.”*

### **Contacts:**

**Project contact:** Koen Laenen [klaenen@medicinesforeurope.com](mailto:klaenen@medicinesforeurope.com)

**Press contact:** Kate O Regan [koregan@medicinesforeurope.com](mailto:koregan@medicinesforeurope.com)

## Medicines for Europe

**Medicines for Europe** represents the generic, biosimilar and value-added medicines industries across Europe. Its vision is to provide sustainable access to high quality medicines, based on 5 important pillars: patients, quality,

value, sustainability and partnership. Its members directly employ 190,000 people at over 400 manufacturing and 126 R&D sites in Europe and invest up to 17% of their turnover in R&D investment. Medicines for Europe member companies across Europe are both increasing access to medicines and driving improved health outcomes. They play a key role in creating sustainable European healthcare systems by continuing to provide high quality, effective generic medicines, whilst also innovating to create new biosimilar medicines and bringing to market value added medicines, which deliver better health outcomes, greater efficiency and/or improved safety in the hospital setting for patients. For more information please follow us at [www.medicinesforeurope.com](http://www.medicinesforeurope.com) and on Twitter @medicinesforEU.