

Market reforms needed to secure essential antibiotics against AMR, report says

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Recent shortages of essential antibiotics in Europe have renewed the urgency to reform the pricing and industrial infrastructure for these essential medicines. The off-patent sector manufactures and supplies most antibiotics in Europe needed to control bacterial infections. Pricing policies for these antibiotics must urgently be reviewed so that they remain viable to produce and supply.

The AMR industry alliance report titled “Strengthening the Sustainability of the Off-Patent Supply Chain” states that the key requirements to improve the supply of antibiotic medicines are:

1. New pricing policies that reflect the value of essential antibiotics instead of lowest price only
2. Sustainable tender policies that reward multiple winners, thus reducing shortage risks
3. Improving health forecasting so antibiotic manufacturing can be adapted to meet demand spikes.

Medicines for Europe Director General Adrian van den Hoven said “Antibiotic shortages this winter were a perfect example of the policy gaps that make the supply of antibiotics so fragile. For years, policies have been based on the lowest price only, with restrictive tender rules. Both policies have fuelled market consolidation making it difficult to respond to sudden demand surges. We also need better disease forecasting in Europe to better plan manufacturing ahead of infectious seasons. These issues must be addressed in the upcoming revision of the EU pharmaceutical legislation to combat AMR.”

Resource hub

The AMR industry alliance report titled “Strengthening the Sustainability of the Off-Patent Supply Chain” is available at <https://www.amrindustryalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/CRA-AMR-Industry-Alliance-Sustainability-Framework-Report-FINAL.pdf>

Medicines for Europe

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