



Medication Stock Challenges

What's a Pharmacy to Do?

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Decatur County Memorial Hospital is committed to providing the best health care available in the area, offering highly-skilled physicians and staff, comprehensive services and a warm, comfortable environment that's close to home.

720 North Lincoln Greensburg, Indiana 47240



Pharmacy One Source 2010 Pharmacist Intervention Challenge Winner





Medication Stock Challenges

- Lack of notice/information regarding shortage
- Financial impact
 - Additional resources required
 - Higher drug acquisition costs
- New Patient Safety risks with changing medications, strengths, and/or formulations
- Best medication to treat illness/disease vs best “available” medication
- Physician, Nurse and Patient Frustration



Current Med Shortage Trending

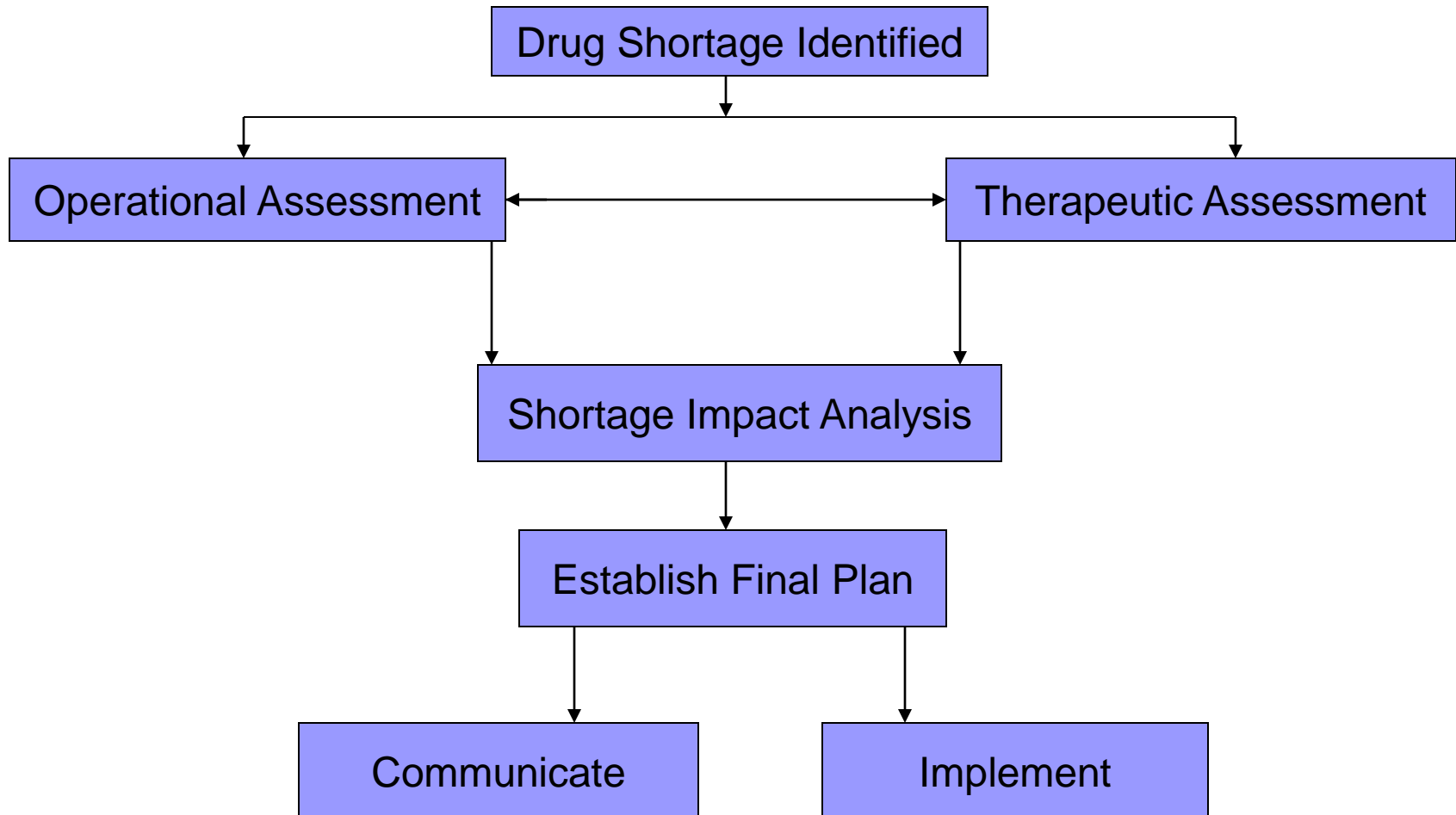
- 1996: < 5 drug shortages per year
- 1997-2000: ~ 20 shortages per year
- February 2011: more than 150 “medically necessary” medications were in short supply



What Causes Shortages

- Natural Disasters
- Raw Materials
- Non-compliance with Regulatory Standards
- Voluntary Recalls
- Manufacturer Rationing
- Restricted Distribution
- Manufacturer Discontinuation
- Industry Consolidations
- Market Shifts
- Unexpected Demand
- “Grey” Market Vendors
- Prime Vendors and Just-In-Time Inventories

Decision Making Process





Shortage Identification

- Triggers to Watch for
 - Recall Notices
 - Back-ordered items
 - “Gray market” cold calls
 - Wholesale vendor representative communication
- Validation/Critical Evaluation of Shortage
 - Reason for shortage
 - Estimated end date of shortage



Operational Assessment

- Potential Effect on the Health System
 - Internal Supply Availability assessment
 - External Supply Availability assessment
- Determine availability from alternative sources
- Investigate the implications of compounding the product
- Research and provide education about alternative agents and cost implications of all scenarios



Therapeutic Assessment

- Current patients/physicians that could be affected should be identified
- Gauge the therapeutic effect of the alternative agent(s) and consequences for the patient
- Gauge the patient safety risk of the alternative source(s)/agent(s)



Shortage Impact Analysis

■ Preparation

- Occurs before actual effects of shortage felt
- Education/training/competency requirements

■ Contingency

- Operations and circumstances for which preparation is limited due to
 - Incomplete information
 - Financial constraints
 - Circumstances beyond the hospital's control



Unique Challenges

■ Technology

- Computerized Prescriber Order Entry (CPOE)
- Automated Dispensing Cabinets (ADC)
- Inventory/Usage Statistics unknown

■ Process

- Filling Kits
- Filling ADC
- New Policy/Procedures Required
- New Admixture/Preparation Technologies



Establish Final Plan

- Determine implementation triggers
- Locate alternative supplies (if available)
- Communicate to all involved in the medication process
- Development of methods for implementation and communication



Communication Strategies

- CPOE
- Automatic Therapeutic Substitutions
- Electronic Intervention Documentation
- Medication Safety Newsletter
- Email Alerts
- Website/Home Page Updates
- P&T Agenda Item
- Routine Status Updates
- Policy Procedure Updates



Internal Strategies

- Pharmacy leadership role
- Strategic Planning/Contingency Planning
- Notification
- Communication
- External Resources
- Quantify resources required
 - Additional cost of alternative medication
 - Additional cost of time for procurement
 - Additional cost of training/education
 - Additional cost of Pharmacist contacting prescriber

External Resources for Managing Medication Shortages

- Manufacturing Company Challenges
 - No central contact point for shortages
 - Customer Service may not be aware of the shortage
 - No official statement or timeline for resolution
 - Ask the manufacturer to quantify the duration in terms of days, weeks or months rather than asking when product will become available
- FDA
 - www.fda.gov/cder/drug/shortages/default.htm
 - No clinical information regarding how to deal with shortage
 - Must check the biologics section as well
- ASHP
 - www.ashp.org/shortage
 - Implications for patient care
 - Alternative therapies and management
 - Estimated re-supply dates when available
 - Allows pharmacists to report shortages as well



Questions to consider

- How many medications at your facility are currently out of stock due to a shortage?
- How many medications are you currently using alternative products for due to a shortage?
- How many patients in your facility have been impacted in the past year by medication shortages in your facility?
- How many medication errors have occurred in your facility due to medication shortage issues in the past 6 months? 12 months?



Data Collection Benefits

- Identify Shortages
- Quantify Number of Patients Impacted
- Quantify Areas/Staff Impacted
- Decision Support
 - Track Trends
- Communication
 - Drugs affected by shortage
 - Actions being taken due to shortage
- Resource Tracking

What Else Can I Do?

- Become Active in Professional Organizations

- Share your data
- Share your experiences

[ASHP shortage guide09.pdf](#)

- Advocate for Change

- Government intervention – Preserving Access to Life Saving Medications Act (early warning system)

[Senator Amy Klobuchar.mht](#)

- ASHP Recorded Webinar

- “Putting Advocacy into Practice—How You Can Partner with ASHP to Address Drug Shortages”



Contact Information

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