

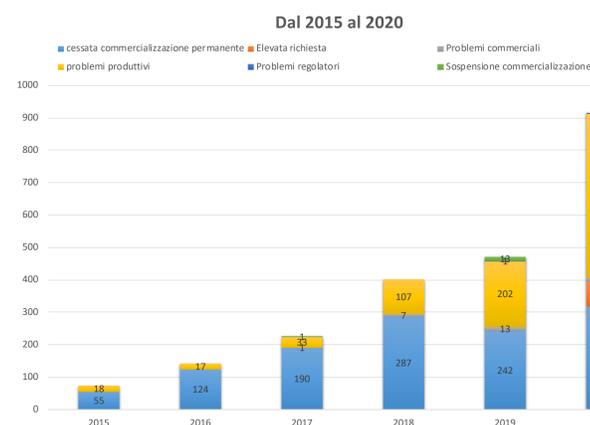
DruGhost: web based platform of drugs' unavailability

R. Petti¹, F. Urso¹, E. Pasut¹, D. Tarantino¹, M. Pani¹.

SIFO - Società Italiana Di Farmacia Ospedaliera e dei Servizi Farmaceutici Delle Aziende Sanitarie, Milano, Italy.

Background and importance

Temporary drugs' lack is an important public health problem since patient care is at risk. In Italian legislation, "shortage" means a drug that cannot be found throughout the country, as the holder of its marketing temporarily cannot ensure an appropriate and continuous supply. The Italian Medicines Agency (AIFA) constantly monitors drug shortages, and makes them public. By "unavailable" we mean a medicine that cannot be immediately processed by the holder following an order. No state authority monitors this phenomenon.

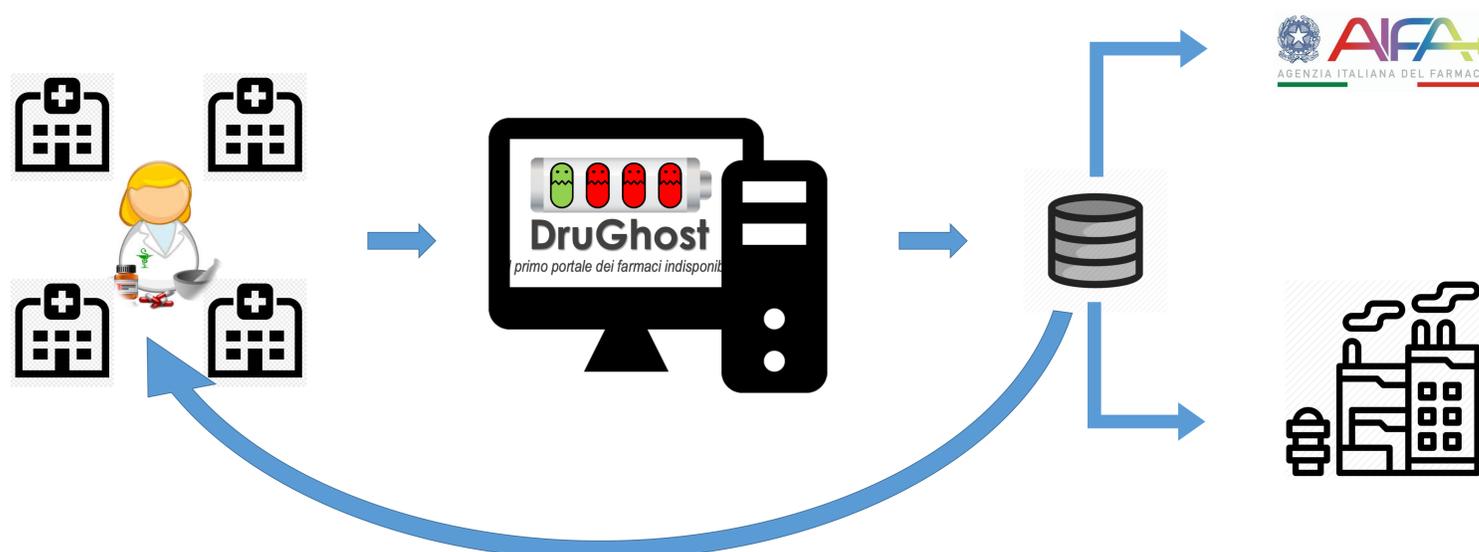


Aim and objectives

The NHS pharmacists are constantly busy managing these deficiencies. In 2018 Italian Society of Hospital Pharmacy (SIFO), with support of AIFA, decided to start a project called "DruGhost" which plans to activate and feed a web-based platform of drugs' unavailability

Material and methods

A web application (DruGhost) has been created. It's in an experimental phase, limited to five Italian Regions, in which notifications of unavailability are entered by members of SIFO. It consists of a form that allows to report unavailability, and a web-based database that collects all the reports that have been approved by the validators. It is accessible to all SIFO members and it can be consulted with the aid of filters (drug, keyword, AIC, manufacturer, Region of the reporting facility, beginning of unavailability and reporting date).



Results

Analyzing the reports entered in six months of use, 73 reports were made: 70 refer to drugs for hospital use (70% antimicrobial, 30% oncological), 3 concern disinfectants. On the other hand, analyzing the number of accesses to the database, it emerged that 845 consultations were carried out: most of which (70%) were carried out by Pharmacists belonging to hospitals located within the Regions subject to the experimentation, while the remaining 30% originated from other regions

Conclusion and relevance

Drughost will be a source to analyze and quantify the phenomenon of unavailability which often precedes a shortage, priority topic for pharmacists and AIFA. It will help to find suppliers with product availability, and will also create a useful tool as a quality indicator to "validate" and "evaluate" suppliers in procurement procedures.