INTRODUCTION

The central pharmacy orders 2100 different drugs from over 80 suppliers. Its main mission is to ensure the continuous delivery of drugs in care units. Backorders are daily verified in order to avoid out of stock.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives are to identify classes of drugs most frequently impacted and to present an organisational pattern to rapidly respond to future stock-outs in order to prevent interruption in patient’s treatment.

METHODS

- We retrospectively analysed all stock outs between January 2014 and September 2014 in the central pharmacy, based on warnings notes we sent to care units.

- We identified classes of drugs most frequently impacted, we listed the solution implemented in each case, then regarding to most suitable solution we built an organisational pattern to overcome out of stock.

RESULTS

From January 2014 to September 2014, 63 stock outs were identified

IMPACTED CLASSES OF DRUGS

- anti-infective agents: 36%
- nervous system drugs: 21%
- digestive and metabolism drugs: 10%
- cardiovascular drugs: 8%
- dermatological drugs: 6%
- antineoplastic and immunomodulating agents: 6%
- other classes of drugs: 13%

SOLUTIONS FOUND

- Drug substitution (same ATC class): 20%
- changing dosage: 18%
- changing pharmaceutical form: 18%
- drug switch (princeps/generic): 32%
- changing primary packaging (volume, number of tablet in the package): 12%

DISCUSSION - CONCLUSION

The study resulted in a classification of the solutions regarding their priority and the development of an organisational pattern to face efficiently future stock outs. It’s also important to get the information as soon as possible to act quickly. In fact, 11 stock outs were notified on the national agency of medicines website. In this context, tracking orders and minimum stocks are very useful tools to prevent out of stock and discontinuity in patient treatment.