

MANAGING MEDICINES SHORTAGES AT NATIONAL LEVEL

A multidisciplinary collaboration between wholesalers, hospital pharmacies and patient safety organizations in Denmark

Joining forces resulted in coordinated and optimized solutions to managing critical medicines shortages and enabled hospital pharmacies to ensure patient safety.

WHY IT WAS DONE

- Before the National Task Force was established, each hospital pharmacy made its own assessments and solutions to critical medicines shortages. This led to lack of coordination in national supply and knowledge sharing.
- As the number of critical medicines shortages increased, a need for a coordinated national initiative became evident.

WHAT WAS DONE

- A National Task Force for critical medicines shortages was established to provide therapeutic and patient-safety assessments of critical medicines shortages at national level.
- The National Task Force takes the full supply chain into account in these assessments.

HOW IT WAS DONE

- To secure national engagement, members of the task force were appointed according to a consensus between the hospital pharmacies in Denmark.
- Based on challenges of geographical dispersion and different local practices, efforts focussed on:
 - Securing a systematic work flow for the group.
 - Creating a digital platform with access for members from different organizations.
 - Agreeing on when a medicines shortage is critical.



The National Task Force includes participants from 3 hospital pharmacies, the national wholesaler for hospital pharmacies and a patient safety organization.

NATIONAL TASK FORCE WORKFLOW



WHAT WAS ACHIEVED

- Early intervention – resulting in timely solutions.
- Agility in allocation of remaining stock between hospital pharmacies.
- Optimization of choice of alternative treatment during period of shortage.
- Secure supply of alternative drugs at national level.
- Initiation of agreement between physicians on choice of alternative at national level.
- Attention to patient safety challenges – preventing adverse events.

WHAT IS NEXT

- The work of the National Task Force is now an integral part of managing critical medicines shortages at national level.
- The workflow and outcomes will continue to undergo evaluation.
- Having this national unit provides the basis for coordinated initiatives and for cooperation with health authorities and market authorization holders.

