



<b>Project Title: Medicine Shortages in Australian Hospitals: Where are we today?</b>		<b>Code: SPS2</b>
<b>Host School / Institute:</b> <a href="#">Sydney Pharmacy School</a>		<b>Address:</b> School of Pharmacy, Building A15, Camperdown Campus
<b>Certificates &amp; Clearances required:</b> No		
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<b>Project Type:</b> Survey; Data Analysis		
<b>Project Category:</b> Pharmacy; Public Health		
<b>Skills / Attributes of a successful student:</b> -Enthusiasm and attention to detail, as we will need the successful student to elicit detailed information from the surveys. -An understanding of medicines access/shortages and appreciation of what impact that might have on public health. -A good knowledge or readiness to learn about data collection in spreadsheets.		
<b>Project Keywords:</b> medicine shortages; TGA website; Pharmaceutical companies; SHPA; Australian hospitals		
<p><b>Project Description:</b> Shortages of medicines, described as the 'unavailability of pharmaceutical products for therapeutic use', have been a recurring problem across the globe for several years. Shortages in medicine supply are usually associated with impoverished, underdeveloped countries suffering famine, episodes of vast epidemics, and accounts of morbidity and mortality. However, it has become alarmingly clear that medicine shortages are now occurring in the most developed countries in the world and for several reasons. In a country such as Australia, "the lucky country", it is difficult to imagine our healthcare system suffering shortages of medicines. However, the reality is that medicine shortages have been creeping into our system since 2009, and not without consequences that affect patient care.</p> <p>In a previous study conducted on pharmacists in the community pharmacy setting, we found several issues that could be addressed by the TGA. Some of our recommendations were in fact adopted by the TGA, for example investing in a website for medicine shortages, and introducing new legislation to make it compulsory for pharmaceutical companies to declare any upcoming shortages ahead of time. A report was generated by the Society of Hospital Pharmacists in Australia SHPA in 2017 after undertaking a one-day snapshot study described as a 'point of prevalence' online-survey of medicines shortages in hospitals around Australia. It would be of interest to repeat this same method of investigation in 2019/20, and to evaluate the timeliness and quality of information provided to clinicians from regulators, sponsors and wholesalers.</p> <p>This study aims to explore medicines shortages in hospitals around Australia at one point in time, using an online survey. Findings will be analysed in light of TGA interventions and information/warnings about shortages in medicines around Australia.</p>		