

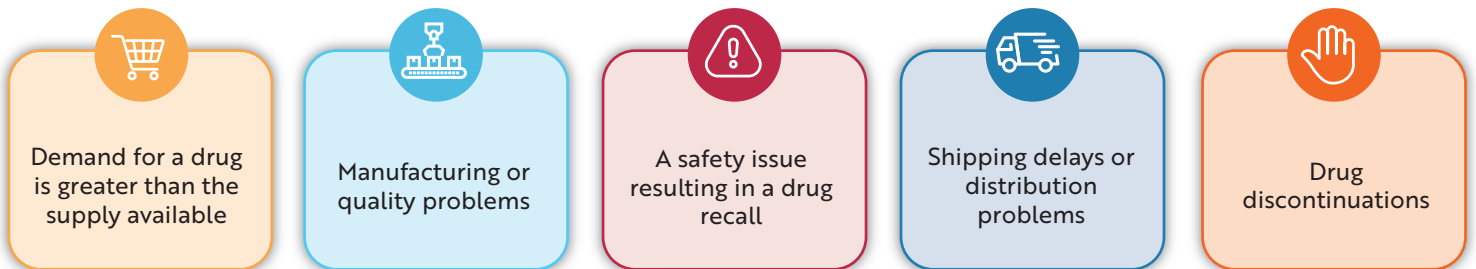
Helping Canadians deal with drug shortages

What is a drug shortage? A drug shortage is when there isn't enough **supply** of a drug to meet **demand**.



WHY do drug shortages happen?

Drug shortages are a global issue and can happen for many reasons:



HEALTH CANADA takes a leadership role in convening all players to try to prevent shortages. When this is not possible, Health Canada works with these players to detect, assess, analyse, mitigate and monitor them.

HOW are drug shortages prevented or managed?

Preventing and managing a drug shortage takes effort from many players:

HEALTH CANADA uses regulatory tools to permit more supplies, including the importation of **foreign-authorized drugs**

HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS identify **safe and effective alternatives**

PROVINCES AND TERRITORIES work with hospitals, pharmacists, retailers and distributors to **manage supply**

DRUG MANUFACTURERS must **report** anticipated and actual shortages and discontinuations of certain drugs to Health Canada.
Increase production or expedite resupplies

DISTRIBUTORS monitor inventory and **accelerate delivery** of resupplies

PHARMACISTS counsel patients, **conserve drugs** where possible and dispense based on need



WHAT can you do to help?

Only purchase the drugs you need. This will help to ensure that others have access to needed supply.

Speak with a doctor or pharmacist for advice on alternatives or how to conserve supply.