

April 12, 2021

RE: Strengthening Healthcare Supply Chains

The undersigned organizations write today to offer our assistance as the Biden Administration begins work on improving the nation's healthcare supply chain. We applaud the Administration for its focus on supply chain security via Executive Order (EO) 14017, with its emphasis on working with private sector healthcare stakeholders. This an important first step in shoring up our drug, device, and medical supply chains.

Over the last several years, natural disasters, quality problems, manufacturer consolidation, and other issues have disrupted pharmaceutical manufacturing and have left the U.S. healthcare system on the brink of a significant public health crisis multiple times. The COVID-19 public health emergency further underscored the vulnerability of our nation's healthcare supply chain. During the pandemic, healthcare providers struggled to obtain medications and supplies essential to patient care, including the sedatives necessary to mechanically ventilate patients, personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves and masks, and ancillary devices and supplies, such as syringes and swabs. The pandemic stress-tested our supply chains, highlighting their fragilities and deficiencies, throwing the need for immediate corrective action into sharp relief.

Our organizations have long been committed to working collaboratively to strengthen supply chains and increase transparency in the U.S. and global regulatory system. In 2020, we convened a [July 2020 joint summit](#) examining the resilience of the U.S. pharmaceutical supply chain in light of the current state of global pharmaceutical manufacturing. The 2020 summit proceedings, which built on findings from a similar [2018 joint meeting](#), include a number of findings and recommendations that heavily informed the shortage provisions in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and that we believe would be valuable to you during the 100-day review required by the EO.

Our organizations are currently developing consensus recommendations on a number of supply chain issues, including Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) enhancement, visibility into supply chains, quality and manufacturing improvement (e.g., reducing contamination in finished pharmaceuticals), and medical supply and medical device supply chain reinforcement. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to share these recommendations, which are drawn from our members' expertise and their real-world experience with utilizing complex, and sometimes fragile, medical supply chains.

We share your goal of improving the resilience of our critical healthcare supply chains and stand ready to assist in identifying creative, comprehensive strategies to do so. Please do not hesitate to use our organizations as a resource as you implement the EO and consider supply chain security policy changes.

Sincerely,

American Hospital Association
American Medical Association
American Society of Anesthesiologists
American Society of Health-System Pharmacists
Association for Clinical Oncology
United States Pharmacopeia