

Submitted to Consultation: Improved sharing of information about medical devices | Proposed amendments relating to transparency of disruptions to supply of a medical device
Submitted on 2026-02-20 15:54:39

Introduction

About you

What is your name?:

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?:

[REDACTED]

Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

I am responding as an individual

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, what is the name of the organisation that you represent?

Please enter your organisation name:

Select one (or more if applicable) of the stakeholder groups that best describes you or your organisation:

Other (please specify below)

Specify 'Other' in the box below:

[REDACTED]

Privacy and Personal Information

I CONSENT: to my response being published but no identifying data.

Have you provided consent but there are particular questions you don't want us to publish?:

The TGA is aware that Artificial Intelligence (AI) may be used to assist in preparing responses to this consultation. It is a respondent's responsibility to ensure the accuracy of their response.

I acknowledge that I am responsible for reviewing and confirming the accuracy and completeness of my submission, accepting full responsibility for its content. I may have used AI in preparing my response; where AI has been used, I confirm that the content has been reviewed and confirmed by me.

Questions 1 and 2

1 Do you agree that the TGA should release information about medical devices for the purpose of managing shortages or disruptions to supply?

Yes

a. Please explain your answer (optional):

It is essential for organisations to have information on status of medical devices so that they can prepare or source alternative devices to ensure service provision. As a former state government employee, I was privy to this information and worked with the TGA and other jurisdictions to prepare for high impact shortages, now I have moved to the private sector, I do not receive this information and feel as if I am flying blind.

2 Should the information be released publicly or be limited to specific stakeholders only?

Yes

a. Please explain your answer (optional):

I do not see a reason why this information should not be openly available as many non-government health organisations, facility and patients accessing healthcare will be impacted by shortages as much as government organisations. Perhaps more in-depth information could be provided to larger, more complex healthcare organisations than the general public, due to differences in health literacy

Questions 3 and 4

3 If we do not make information about disruptions to supply of a medical device publicly available, do you agree that information about supply disruptions should be released to the stakeholders outlined above?

Yes

a. Please explain your answer (optional) :

The limitations of current legislation does not allow private health organisations or professional bodies, agencies or agencies to be informed of supply disruptions. These shortages impact the private sector as much as the public sector. Sharing information can support the ability for all of the above to work collaboratively to provide better outcomes for all Australians

4 Do you have any concerns regarding the proposal for releasing information about disruptions to supply for a medical device?

Yes

a. Please explain your answer (optional):

Of course, there is concern that if information becomes publicly available then bulk buying and hoarding of available or alternative stock may occur, especially if it hits the media. However, the time it allows for organisations to prepare to conserve existing stock offsets this risk as government state departments do this anyway

Questions 5, 6 and 7

5 Do you agree it is appropriate for the TGA to release the information identified above in the event of a disruption to supply of a medical device?

Yes

a. Please explain your answer (optional):

The more information that healthcare organisations/associations/agencies have on supply disruptions helps determine the context and the development of contingency plans to manage impacts on service delivery.

Care will need to be taken with information on alternative available medical devices (i.e. order limits with sponsors) to minimise chances of stockpiling and hoarding. There needs to be a level of cooperation between all Australian healthcare providers for the benefit for all Australians

6 Should sponsors of medical devices impacted by disruption to supply be provided with a notice of intent and offered an opportunity to comment on the release of the information?

Yes

a. Please explain your answer (optional):

Sponsors should have an opportunity to comment, but not control, information released as it needs to benefit the Australian public, not just the sponsor or shareholders.

By giving Sponsors opportunity to have input, they are more likely to engage and work willingly with the TGA, rather than hiding the issue until they have no other choice to avoid bad publicity

7 Please provide any further feedback or comments you have regarding proposals to collect and share information about disruption to supply of a medical device.

Please provide any further feedback in this field.: