

# Stock-outs in Europe and EATG's Emergency Guidance

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## Content

- Mapping of stock-outs
- Conclusion: recurring problems
- EATG's Emergency Guidance



## Anonymous UK donation to Romania



## The problem:

- Stock-outs have been reported in a number of European countries over the past few years
- They happen for a variety of reasons
- What are the causes?
- And are economic problems making this worse?



## Countries stock-outs reported in:

- Belarus
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Croatia
- France
- Macedonia
- Kazakhstan
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Romania
- Russia
- Serbia
- Tajikistan
- Turkey
- Ukraine



## Mapping

- We asked:
  - Where stock-outs have happened?
  - When did they happen - is it a recurring problem?
  - Why they happened? (Insufficient ordering by the central health agency, distributor problems etc.)
  - What did you do to address this? (Who did you contact to tackle this? Did this work - if anything was possible...?)
  - What happened - treatment wise - to the people living with HIV who were affected? (Were treatments changed - substitution with similar generic/branded drugs - or completely new drugs. Or was treatment disrupted?)
  - Were any specific groups more badly affected than others?



## Conclusion: Recurring Problems

- Bad planning at central government level
- Bad communication between departments
- Some Ministry of Health officials don't understand the importance of uninterrupted treatment
- Insufficient funds allocated
- Distributor/wholesaler problems
- Supply chain vulnerabilities
- Commercial pressures
- And the problems are moving to diagnostics



## Emergency!!! Guidance

- We do not accept non-implementation of EACS and WHO Europe Clinical Guidelines
- Interruptions cause harm to the individual and public health and will be costly over time
- Definition of treatment interruption
- Why is it/what is dangerous?
- Advice on drugs/monitoring
- Stock-outs of diagnostics
- Advocacy guidance



## Definition treatment interruption

- Structured interruptions are no longer appropriate
- Drug holidays are not recommended
- **Treatment interruptions due to interruption of drug supply – Emergency Guidance**
- Treatment interruptions may be complete or partial



## Partial interruption – what happens, what is dangerous?

- Consider drug half life: NNRTI, some NRTI
- Need to protect substances and avoid single exposure
- Particular risk of TI for patients with low nadir (CD4 <200)
- Interruptions of up to 1 week are not dangerous. Patients should continue with previous regimen
- Serially repeated short interruptions, on/off therapy, have to be avoided by all means



## Advice on specific drugs

- RAL, MVC, PI can be stopped anytime
- EFV, NVP based regimes:
  - Stop everything, switch to PI/r for 14-21 days
  - Stop EFV, NVP & take NRTI for 7 days
- If partial interruptions: except PI/r, avoid single drug exposure. 2 active ingredients may be acceptable.
- Particular risk of TI for patients with low nadir (CD4 <200)
- If treatment effective, single drugs can be switched



## Monitoring

- **Quarterly CD4 monitoring required during interruption**
- **Certain patients may need antibiotics or antifungal medication to prevent opportunistic infections**



## Stock-outs of diagnostics

- Shortages & stock-outs reported in diagnostics (CD4-test, viral load - PCR)
- Lack of diagnostics: affects treatment monitoring, increases risk of emerging resistance
- Without monitoring, patients can be on ineffective treatment & medically & economically useless regimens
- Accumulation of mutations in case of resistant virus
- CD4 monitoring can be limited to 2/year



## Advocacy guidance: stopping & preventing stock-outs

- Contact national treatment advocacy group
- Reach out to doctors, medical associations & discuss joint action
- Go to court, work on procurement and supply monitoring
- Monitor interruptions and go public. Offer help to find solutions.
- Reach out for donations, set up community network for exchanging ARV



## EATG's Emergency Guidance

- Launched during EACS conference in Belgrade
- Also available in Bulgarian, Romanian, Russian and Serbian
- [www.EATG.org](http://www.EATG.org)



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