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Meeting Report: Medicine Availability Working Group

March 2026 Meeting

18/03/2026
Videoconference

Attendees

Name	Organisation	Position
s.22	ACT	s.47F(1) ACT Health
	NSW	Medication Safety (Critical Response) Systems Improvement Directorate, Clinical Excellence Commission
	NSW	Strategic Procurement Services, HealthShare NSW
	NT	Medicines Management Team, NT Health
	NT	Transformation and Change, Top End Health Service
	QLD	Medication Services, QLD Health
	QLD	Central Pharmacy, Queensland Health
	SA	Medicines and Technology Programs, Office of the Chief Pharmacist
	SA	SA Pharmacy
	SA	Pharmacy, Northern Adelaide Local Health, SA Health
	TAS	TAS Dept Health
	VIC	Supply Chain Surety, HealthShare Victoria
	MAWG Expert Advisor	
	WA	Health Support Services
	WA	Clinical Excellence Division WA
	WA	Medicines and Poisons Regulation Branch, WA Health
	ACSQH	Medicines Safety and Quality
	TGA	Medicine Shortages Section
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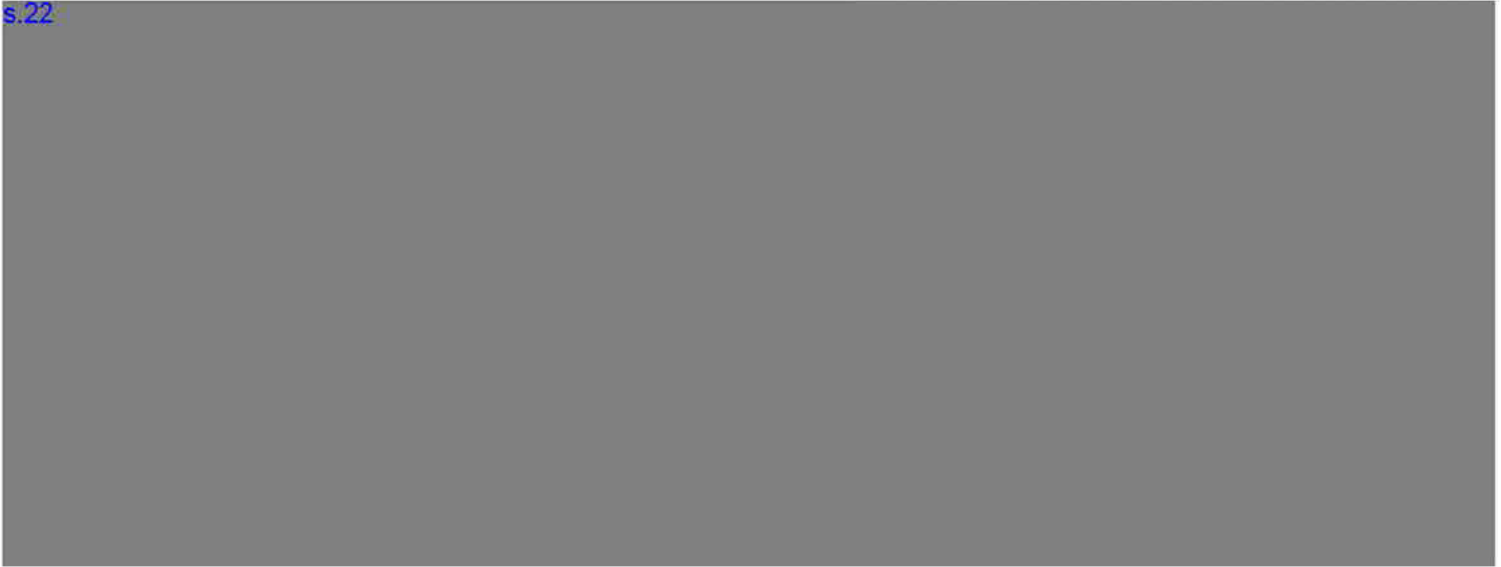
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Monitoring supply of medicines manufactured in the Middle East

- The TGA is actively monitoring the developments in the Middle East and is working closely with sponsors and industry bodies to identify any emerging or potential supply issues as soon as possible.
- The TGA welcomes any general insights at any time by contacting the TGA at medicine.shortages@health.gov.au
- The TGA is also monitoring potential global fuel supply impacts, and to date has not been notified of any related shortages.
- ***Action Item*** The TGA will provide wording on potential impacts of the Middle East conflict on medicine supply, for members to share as needed.
- [REDACTED] a question about jurisdictions' stockpile strategies.
 - TGA discouraged stockpiling at this stage.
 - [REDACTED] higher level comms to wholesalers is to maintain average usage so stockpiling doesn't happen. However, CSO mandates wholesalers to fulfill orders. TGA works closely with Medicines and Pharmacy Services Australia (MPSA) and will take feedback to pharmaceutical wholesaler agreement, asking to provide communication.
 - [REDACTED] has its own central warehouse and is not stockpiling. The warehouse is also at full capacity.
 - [REDACTED] is also not recommending stockpiling, but asked which items are at risk. TGA: It is not a widespread issue but if we see a pattern of broad impact we will report back to the group.
 - [REDACTED] is putting together a list of essential medicines for possible stockpiling for public hospitals. TGA will reach out separately to [REDACTED] to gain some information.
- [REDACTED] has received notice from a freight company indicating increase in prices.

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**Action items**

Item #	Who	Medicine (if applicable)	Action item
1	TGA	-	To provide MAWG with wording on TGA's monitoring and management of potential impacts of the Middle East conflict on medicine supply, for members to share as needed.
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Australian Government

Department of Health, Disability and Ageing
Therapeutic Goods Administration

AGENDA

Medicine Availability Working Group

Wednesday 18 March 2026

2PM - 3PM AEDT (1PM – 2PM AEST, 1:30PM – 2:30PM ACDT, 11AM – 12PM AWST)

[Join from the meeting link](#)

Meeting ID: s.22 [redacted]

Passcode: [redacted]

#	Title	Time	Lead
s.22	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
3	Monitoring supply of medicines manufactured in the Middle East	10 minutes	s.22 [redacted] - TGA
s.22	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

Briefing Paper
Meeting with MO on 12 March 2026

Thursday 12 March 2026
12pm - 1pm AEDT

TRIM: D26-1155421

SUBJECT: Potential impact of the Middle East conflict on therapeutic good supply chains

Led by: Pharmacovigilance Branch [s.22](#), Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)

Executive Summary:

- The TGA has contacted therapeutic good industry peak bodies Medicines Australia (MA), the Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association (GBMA), and Regulatory and Technical consultative forum for medical devices, requesting members notify the TGA as soon as possible of any signals of potential supply issues.
 - States and territories were notified during our regular fortnightly Medical Device Supply Disruptions meeting and asked to provide any updates to the TGA as issues emerge. Additional discussion is planned for 18 March 2026 to discuss the impact on medicines.
- In respect to medicines, the TGA has conducted a preliminary assessment of the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) manufactured in the Middle East to identify any critically important medicines that may be affected by the current conflict. The TGA is also monitoring Medicine Shortage Notifications (MSNs) reported by sponsors notifying the TGA that the shortage report or extension is a direct impact of the conflict.
- Based on our preliminary assessment, 11 products/product groups have been identified as at risk of potential supply issues should the conflict be prolonged and manufacturing in these sites halted.
- As of 11 March 2026, 2 medicine sponsors have also referenced in their MSNs that supply has been impacted by transport and logistics issues arising from the conflict. These notifications are for 3 products, one is an update to extend a current shortage and 2 are new shortage notifications. Two of these MSNs are due to manufacturing issues unrelated to the conflict but have flagged the potential for secondary transport issues arising from the conflict. At present there are no impacts on consumer access. Appendix 1 provides information on the reported MSNs. Since the initial report, one sponsor has subsequently advised of their ability to secure flights from the Middle East.

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- The TGA will continue to monitor the supply situation for products manufactured in the Middle East and will continue to contact sponsors of these goods to further investigate whether there are anticipated disruptions and assess stock levels for affected products in Australia.
- Should a significant shortage emerge, the TGA is able to use provisions under sections 41HD and 19A of the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989* to allow the import of unapproved goods for medical devices and medicines, respectively.

Key issues:

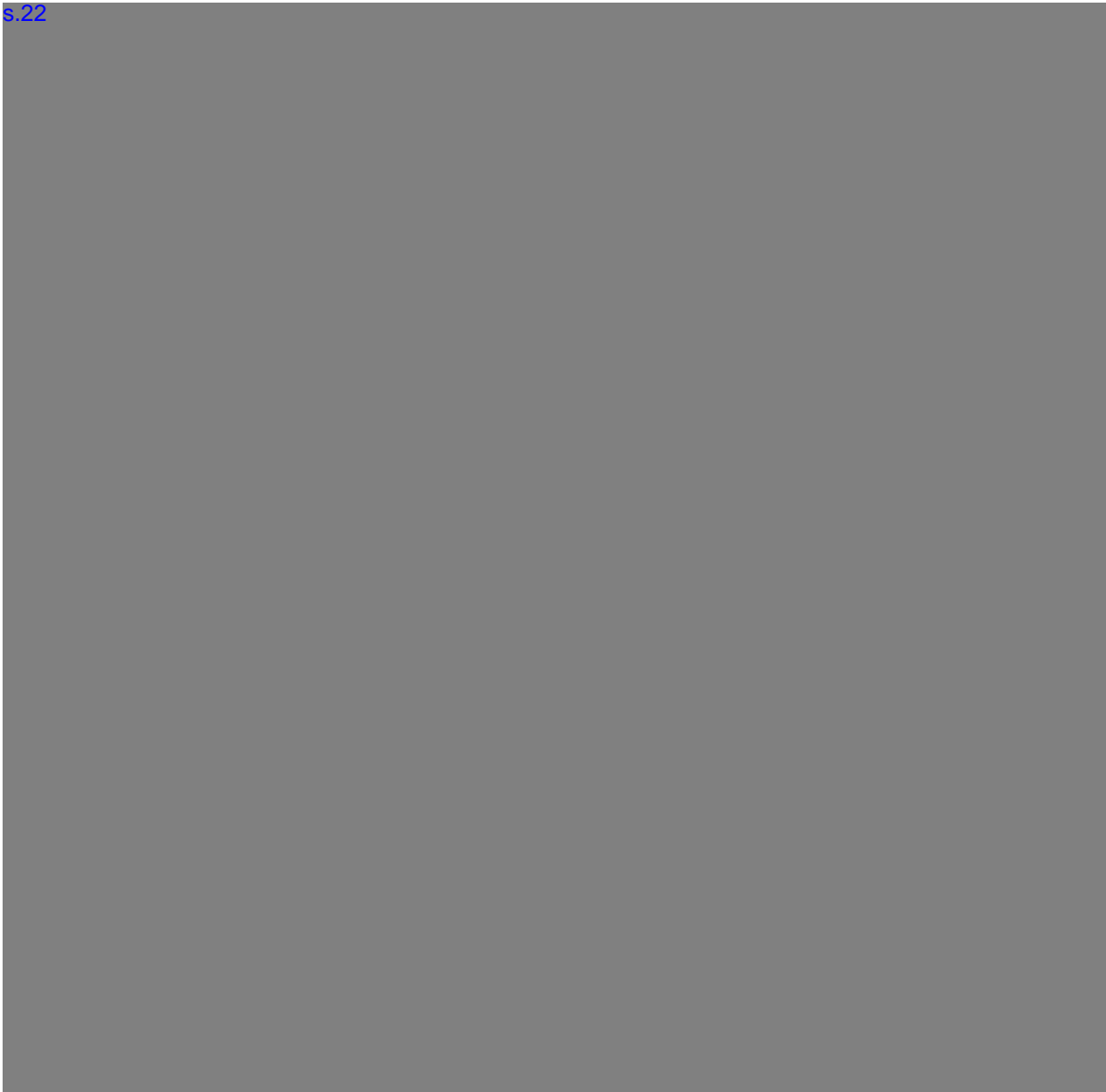
- While the effect of this conflict on therapeutic good supply has not yet impacted consumers, there may be concerns of increasing supply disruptions if the conflict becomes prolonged. The immediate risk relates to air freight suspensions and limited operations impacting shipments transiting through the Middle East, including impacts on transport costs. The TGA does not have visibility over shipping routes and relies on sponsors reporting anticipated disruptions.
 - The TGA continues to liaise with the Office of Supply Chain Resilience regarding any response they undertake, including those that may support supply chain logistics of therapeutic goods.
- In respect to medicines, based on current TGA data, we are unable to determine with certainty whether a product, or its associated manufacturing step(s), is currently being manufactured (at a site in the Middle East. This is because an ARTG product may be approved to conduct the same manufacturing step at multiple locations (e.g. both Middle East and non-Middle East countries). The preliminary analysis conducted has been broad in nature to ensure that as many ARTG products which could be impacted were considered. Further investigations will be conducted on those products as the conflict progresses.
- For ARTG products where a manufacturing step is approved to be conducted at multiple facilities, there may be the potential to shift this processing step to the non-Middle East site. However, this can take some time for the transition to occur, further exacerbating potential supply disruptions.

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Assessment of current market situation:Medicines

- A preliminary analysis has been conducted based on ARTG products associated with active medicines manufacturing sites located in the following countries:
 - Israel
 - Iran
 - Türkiye
 - Cyprus
 - Jordan
 - Lebanon
 - United Arab Emirates (UAE)
 - Oman
 - Pakistan
 - Qatar
- Manufacturing Quality Branch (MQB) aided in identifying manufacturing sites with active licences in the Middle East. IQVIA supply data and ARTG product indications were then used to determine products/ product groups for critical medicines which may be impacted should the conflict be prolonged.
- In total, 531 ARTG products are associated with the nominated countries, spanning 115 active ingredients. Appendix 2 provides more information on the breakdown of ARTG products and active ingredients associated with ME countries.
- Most products are identified to have other brands available in the Australian market. However, an in-depth analysis is required to confirm availability and fully ascertain the potential impacts that may occur on the supply of all ARTG products associated with Middle East sites.
- Türkiye and Israel are associated with over 70% of the ARTG products identified as being manufactured in this region. Conversely, some Middle East countries do not have any active manufacturing sites for ARTG products (e.g. Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Lebanon, Iran).
- Based on the TGA's preliminary assessment, 11 products/product groups have been identified in having potential supply issues should the conflict be prolonged and manufacturing in these sites halted. Appendix 3 provides more information on these products/product groups.

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- Australia is also susceptible to long shipping or freight times as thus may feel effects of specific disruptions earlier or more acutely than other jurisdictions.
- Since COVID-19, we have also observed several manufacturers exiting the market (regionally or globally) due to commercial reasons. It is possible that further rises in fuel and insurance costs may also have cascading effects on availability of alternatives in medium term.

Division: Medicine Regulation Division s.22

Contact Officers: Tahli Fenner

Phone No.: s.22

Cleared by (FAS): Nick Henderson

Date: 11 March 2026

Appendix 1: Medicine Shortage Notifications with current/potential impacts due to ME conflict.

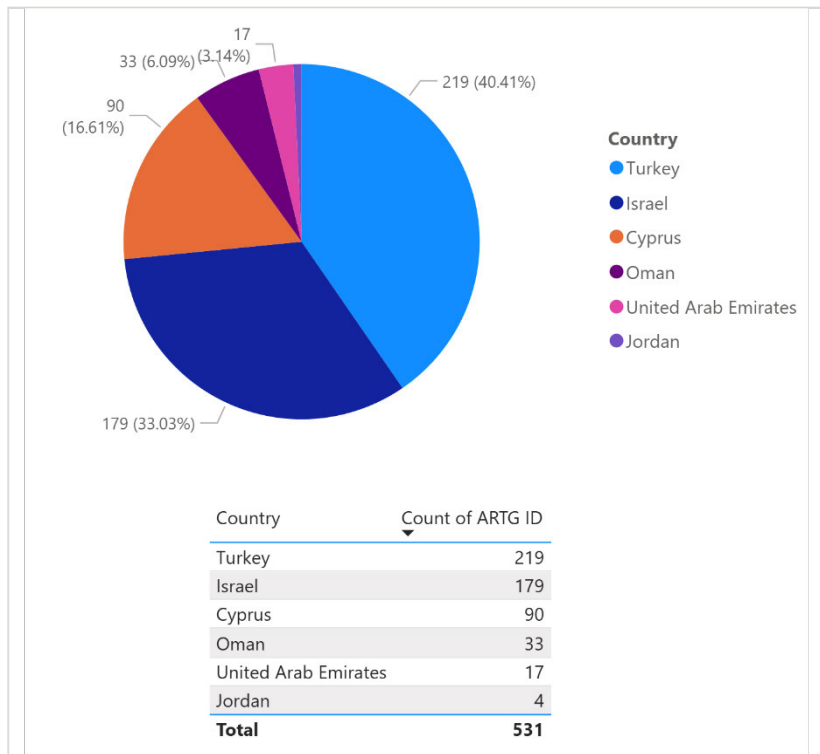
MSN No.	MS-2025-NT-01386-1
ARTG Product	Xylocard 500 500mg/5mL injection ampoule (ARTG 12036)
Sponsor	Aspen Pharmacare Australia Pty Ltd
New shortage or Update?	Update
Shortage Dates	31 March 2026 to 13 April 2026
Reason	Manufacturing issue with secondary potential shipping impacts caused by Middle crisis.

MSN No.	MS-2026-NT-00269-1
ARTG Product	HYDROXO-B12 hydroxocobalamin chloride 1mg/1mL injection ampoule (ARTG 161606)
Sponsor	Aspen Pharmacare Australia Pty Ltd
New shortage or Update?	New
Shortage Dates	4 March 2026 to 18 March 2026
Reason	Product stuck at Doha (Qatar) airport. Waiting for next available flight to Australia. The sponsor has since advised they secured flights and the product is enroute to Australia

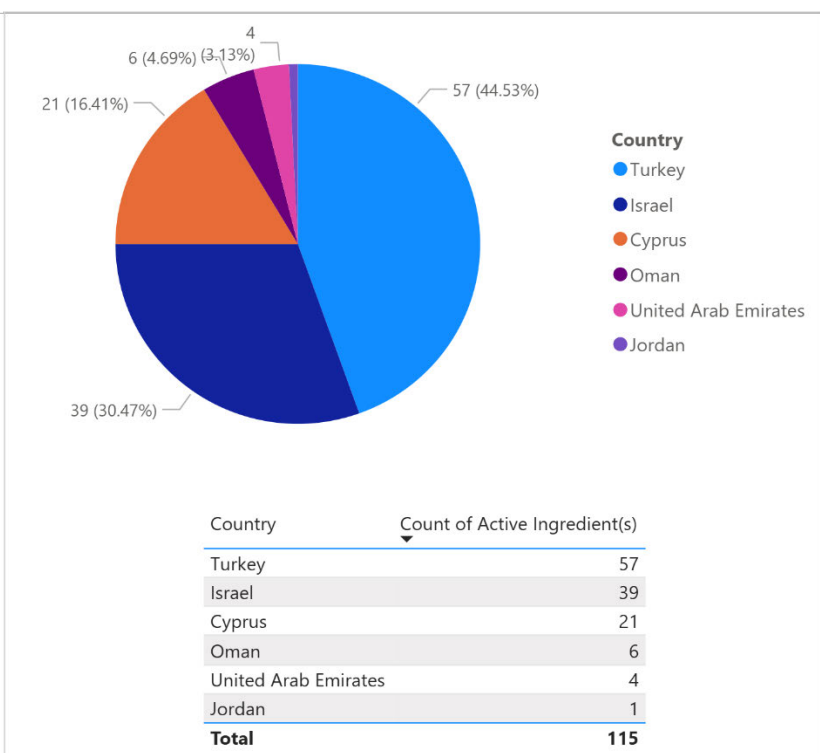
MSN No.	MS-2026-NT-00261-1
ARTG Product	ANDROCUR cyproterone acetate 50 mg tablet blister pack (ARTG 156920)
Sponsor	Amdipharm Mercury Australia Pty Ltd
New shortage or Update?	New
Shortage Dates	4 March 2026 to 31 March 2026
Reason	Manufacturing issue with secondary potential air freight issues caused by Middle crisis.

Appendix 2: MSS analysis – Graphical breakdown of affected ARTG products and active ingredients with a manufacturing step in the ME.

Number of ARTG Products by Country



Number of Active ingredients by Country



Number of ARTG products by Active Ingredient

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Nominated Manufacturing Steps

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Appendix 3: MSS analysis – List of medicines manufactured in ME that may be impacted if situation continues.**Data current as of 12 March 2026**

Product(s)	Indication	Potential Issue
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