



May 30, 2023

## **ANCO and MOASC STATEMENT ON CANCER CARE DRUG SHORTAGE**

As oncology professionals in California, the Association of Northern California Oncologists (ANCO) and the Medical Oncology Association of Southern California (MOASC) urges state and federal leaders to protect our nation's cancer patients by taking steps to mitigate shortages of cancer care drugs.

The medical community continues to experience shortages of critical drugs used to treat a variety of conditions. These shortages are caused by multiple different factors, including quality issues, supply chain disruptions, natural disasters, and other emergencies that take place in countries that house drug manufacturing facilities.

Currently, more than a dozen oncology drugs are on the FDA's shortage list. The lack of predictability in the generic cancer care drug supply chain can have severely negative impacts on patients with cancer, including disruptions or delays in treatment, potentially leading to irreversible disease progression.

We appreciate Congress' efforts to secure the drug supply chain by including provisions from Mitigating Emergency Drug Shortages (MEDS) Act in the enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act in 2020. However, further steps are needed to protect our patients. Congress can help mitigate future shortages by:

- Improving the FDA's visibility into the supply chain and access to data so the agency can predict and respond to potential shortages earlier.
- Establishing alternative efforts to ramp up drug production if existing manufacturers cannot meet demand.
- Ensuring there is clear communication to health systems and providers when drug shortages occur so that the medical community can better plan for such changes.
- Identifying the economic incentives that drive generic manufacturers out of the market and preparing to stabilize the market with long-term contracts and guaranteed prices.
- Examine the economic incentives that are driving generic manufacturers out of the market and be prepared to stabilize the market with long-term contracts and guaranteed prices.
- Incentivizing the U.S. production of critical medication through price stabilization and investment in advanced manufacturing.

In addition, California state leaders can help to mitigate future cancer care drug shortages, as well. SB 852 (Pan, Statutes of 2020) the California Affordable Drug Manufacturing Act of 2020, requires

California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS) to enter partnerships or contracts resulting in the production or distribution of generic prescription drugs, with the intent that these drugs be made widely available to public and private purchasers, providers, and pharmacies. The program established by SB 852, CalRx, is required to prioritize production and distribution of drugs that would have the greatest impact on lowering patient drug costs and addressing shortages. In making these determinations, CalRx must consider the drug expenditure reporting from the Department of Managed Health Care and the Department of Insurance pursuant to SB 17 (Hernandez, Statutes of 2017) as well as prioritize the production of at least one form of insulin and drugs for chronic and high-cost conditions. In this effort, CalHHS has delegated the responsibility for implementing SB 852 to the Department of Health Care Access and Innovation (HCAI.)

ANCO and MOASC urge California to include cancer care drugs in the CalRx initiative, to address the more than a dozen oncology drugs on the FDA's shortage list. Since the lack of predictability in the generic cancer care drug supply chain can have severely negative impacts on patients with cancer, we urge California Governor Newsom, CalHHS Secretary Mark Ghaly, and HCAI Director Elizabeth Landsberg to include cancer care drugs in the CalRx program in the near future.

Let's work together to secure a sustainable and reliable drug supply chain and protect California patients. We offer ANCO and MOASC leadership as a resource to your office as we navigate these complex issues. Please feel free to contact Courtney Flookes, Executive Director of ANCO at [courtney@anco.org](mailto:courtney@anco.org) or Nichole East, Executive Director of MOASC at [neast@moasc.org](mailto:neast@moasc.org) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



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cc: California Governor Gavin Newsom  
Richard Figueroa, Health and Human Services Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor

Secretary Mark Ghaly, M.D., California Health and Human Services Agency  
Director Elizabeth Landsberg, Department of Health Care Access and Innovation  
The Honorable Alex Padilla, United States Senate  
The Honorable Diane Feinstein, United States Senate  
The Honorable Mike Thompson, CA District 4, United States House of Representatives  
The Honorable Ami Bera, M.D., CA District 6, United States House of Representatives  
The Honorable Anna Eshoo, CA District 16, United States House of Representatives  
The Honorable Jay Obernolte, CA District 23, United States House of Representatives  
The Honorable Raul Ruiz, CA District 25, United States House of Representatives  
The Honorable Tony Cardenas, CA District 29, United States House of Representatives  
The Honorable Nanette Barragan, CA District 44, United States House of Representatives