

Teva's views on COVID-19

Policy & Advocacy Commitments

Savanta ComRes report
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The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic across Europe significantly impacted the lives of European citizens, most obviously seen in terms of hospitalisation of large numbers of patients.

As a company touching the lives of 200 million patients every day globally, Teva Pharmaceuticals Europe commissioned a survey from Savanta ComRes to better understand the views of key health sector stakeholders (patients, pharmacists, hospitals, physicians, wholesalers) across the European Union (Poland, France, Germany, Spain, UK and EU), with regards to responses to the pandemic by Governments and the pharmaceutical sector. The survey also seeks to understand what policies would be required in the future as a result of the initial responses by Governments and industry.

The results of the survey showed a high level of convergence in stakeholders' views on the management of the COVID-19 crisis, as well as on the highlighted policy recommendations, which have been integrated in Teva Pharmaceuticals Europe's policy reflections throughout 2020. Here is a summary of the stakeholders recommendations and Teva Pharmaceuticals Europe's views on the key topics covered in the report:

COVID-19 Response & Beyond

A key recommendation shared by the majority of stakeholders interviewed is **the need for continued co-operation between all parties of the healthcare delivery system** through "policy making forums" where relevant stakeholders can meet to address relevant issues, even beyond a crisis: EU, national Governments, health authorities and delivery organizations, the pharmaceutical industry and healthcare associations. The need for improved communication efforts by healthcare sectors and authorities across Europe, as well as greater transparency about the Government's plans was also highlighted.



Patients should have access to the medicines they need, when they need them. **Teva Pharmaceuticals Europe calls for a focused, action oriented High Level Pharmaceutical Forum** led by the European Commission and involving Ministers of Health and policy makers, regulators, payers, industry and other concerned stakeholders of the pharmaceutical supply chain. This forum should address topics such as security of supply and manufacturing resilience.

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The pharmaceutical industry should definitely lead a discussion, both internally and externally, on methods of ensuring the access to medicines irrespective of the country. This should be done in order to prevent a situation where in a country with lower GDP there is a shortage of medicines due to business-related and not production-related reasons.

Polish Stakeholder

Another topic raised is about **regulatory flexibilities** which supported the pharmaceutical sector to ensure continuous supply of critical medicines and avoid critical shortages during the pandemic. A key recommendation from stakeholders is that these flexibilities need to continue in the next phase, and **should be considered for long term implementation**, beyond crisis situations.



Teva Pharmaceuticals Europe also strongly believes that **regulatory flexibilities should be guaranteed** to ensure smooth movement of medicines to mitigate medicines shortages as the norm, beyond crisis situations. Teva Pharmaceuticals Europe supports the establishment of a pan-European strategy on shortages to avoid fragmentation and duplications of efforts while ensuring equitable access to essential medicines for patients.

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... has been about help in terms of regulations, to help the industry to be able to provide medicines for people... in terms of having helped the industry in reducing red-tape, I think they've done as best they can.

UK Stakeholder

Access to treatment

An important aspect raised by stakeholders is the impact of COVID-19 on non-COVID-19 patients and their health. Stakeholders highlighted **the importance to treat both COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 patients, without compromising their health**, for instance by redesigning how hospitals are structured with designated zones for both.

” So, we’re discovering more people dying for other diseases than for COVID because of the pandemic, so it’s very concerning for us.

EU Stakeholder



Teva Pharmaceuticals Europe pays great attention to the health of its patients and is also concerned by the impact of COVID-19 on access to care and medications for non-COVID-19 patients and developed information campaign. In this respect, **Teva Pharmaceuticals Europe developed a campaign: “Good Health is more than being COVID-Free”** encouraging relevant healthcare professionals and patients to keep in touch and follow-up on their treatments if they need to, so as to not suffer the negative consequences for their health.

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Many patients who have chronic diseases have had a reduction on their abilities to go see their doctors.

Spanish Stakeholder

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Stakeholders also highlighted the importance of **digitalization**, notably continuing to offer digital medical services including e-appointments and e-prescriptions as a priority for the future.

Corona is essentially providing a push for digitalization at all levels. What extent that will take is not yet possible to say. I think the long-term changes will be huge.

German Stakeholder



Teva Pharmaceuticals Europe supports policy initiatives aiming at supporting investments in the digital transformation of the healthcare system. As such, we are advocating for the development of the adequate regulatory and market access frameworks to enable patients to benefit from integrated digitalized healthcare solutions including in the off-patent segment.

Securing existing manufacturing investments in Europe through sustainable reforms is a key priority for Teva Pharmaceuticals Europe.

Manufacturing in Europe

A topic clearly identified by stakeholders as a key to face future pandemics is manufacturing in Europe. Several stakeholders highlighted **the importance of securing production of essential medicines and APIs in Europe as well as the supply chain overall**, to ensure the availability of medicines and develop a holistic supply plan for Europe. It was added that it could become ever more cost effective to produce in Europe if the right policy reforms would take place, tackling the systematic sustainability issues at EU and national level.

” It is a bit like an army with no weapons, which is letting its enemy produce the weapons that it needs in order to protect itself.

French Stakeholder

” The long-term goal is certainly to maintain and strengthen the quality of supply and security of supply.

German Stakeholder



For Teva Pharmaceuticals, which produces 93% of its European Portfolio in Europe and more than 40% of their APIs in Europe, patients have the right to be confident in the certain and predictable supply of high-quality essential medicines. To achieve this goal, a strong pharmaceutical value chain and investments in mechanisms to ensure security of supply are required. In relation to the COVID-19 crisis, it is clear that despite major constraints such as country shut downs (e.g. Italy - a major API producer) or unexpected demand spikes (e.g. ICU Medicines), the pharmaceutical industry demonstrated resilience and was able to protect patients by continuously producing their normal course of treatment - or those in high demand - with no major disruption to access.

Teva Pharmaceuticals Europe calls for the need to build a modern, digitized regulatory environment that will support economic and environmental sustainability as well as providing the opportunity for a frank discussion on the need to design **smart, sustainable and innovative procurement procedures**. Teva Pharmaceuticals Europe believes that European manufacturers must have the means to financially sustain their manufacturing activities on the continent, moving away from healthcare systems' unsustainable preference for the lowest cost generic option.