



May 18, 2022

Sujeet Rao
White House Supply Chain Disruptions Task Force
Eisenhower Executive Office Building
1650 17th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Rao:

On behalf of our more than 60,000 pharmacist, pharmacy student, and pharmacy technician members, we write to request your urgent assistance to address and mitigate the supply chain disruptions that have resulted in acute national shortages of contrast dye agents used for patient imaging, including imaging for heart attacks and strokes. Our members, who work in hospitals and health systems, as well as outpatient facilities, manage the supply of these agents. Due to the COVID-19 related shutdown of GE Healthcare's Shanghai plant, which produces Omnipaque (iohexol), a widely used contrast agent in the United States, providers are struggling to access contrast dye agents, forcing them to aggressively conserve products and delay and/or cancel medical procedures requiring imaging. Unfortunately, the impact of the Omnipaque shortage has been amplified by shortages of GE Healthcare's other imaging product, Visipaque (iodixonal), and other contrast dye agents.

We greatly appreciate the work GE Healthcare, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and others are doing to address this shortage. However, the information released about the status of GE's Shanghai plant, the levels of expected supply, and the potential timeline for accessing additional product from GE's Ireland plant or other suppliers/manufacturers, remains uncertain. We urge the administration to coordinate with all parties to provide supply details that can assist our members in creating workable conservation plans. Specifically, the following information is critical to ensuring that our members have the information they need to manage the imaging agent shortage:

- Does GE Healthcare plan to make allocation changes for Omnipaque products from the current 20% allocation allotment? If so, when will those changes be announced?
- Is GE working directly with FDA to identify other products produced internationally that could be temporarily imported into the United States as alternatives to Omnipaque? If so, which products are being considered and what is the general timeframe for importation?
- Are there potential options for using sterile compounding to extend supply?

To assist our members tasked with managing the shortage, ASHP has created a conservation resource, "Considerations for Imaging Contrast Shortage Management and Conservation," freely available on our website and a source that other providers may find helpful. Our [resource](#) details strategies for repackaging Omnipaque and Visipaque, and is updated as new information becomes available. We encourage you to distribute this contrast agent conservation resource to healthcare providers. As work to resolve this shortage continues, we urge you to view ASHP as a resource. We stand ready to assist all parties in their efforts to ensure continued patient access to these vital products.

Sincerely,

Tom Kraus, J.D.
Vice President, Government Relations

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Cc: Peter J. Arduini
Chief Executive Officer
GE Healthcare

Cc: FDA Drug Shortages Staff