

## **PLFSS: WE MUST PROTECT OLD BUT INDISPENSABLE MEDICINES**

As has been the case every year for many years, the Social Security Financing Bill (PLFSS) 2021 provides for a reduction in the price of medicines (640 million in 2021).

The National Academy of Pharmacy does not have a remit to comment on measures with the legitimate aim of balancing the budget, but is concerned that this reduction may concern old but essential medicines, which often have very low prices that lead to their unavailability.

For more than ten years, the Academy has been warning of shortages and ruptures in stock shortages which have been becoming more frequent from year to year (more than 1,400 in 2019). It is therefore imperative to maintain, and sometimes even increase the price of these essential old medicines, whose lack of availability not only poses a major problem for patients, but also leads to very high direct or indirect additional costs: through the purchase of imported emergency products whose prices could not be negotiated, through the impact on the workload of health professionals and especially hospital staff, who are now dedicated to managing these shortages or preparing substitute treatments to mitigate their impact.

Emergency imports of medicines labelled in a foreign language also increase the risk of possible administration errors linked to changes in the molecule or its presentation, etc.

It is now recognized that the fall in the prices of older, mostly generic, drugs (70% of pharmaceutical products delivered in Europe) has led to the relocation of production to Asia\*.

**The National Academy of Pharmacy considers that it is urgent to take into account the disastrous impact of price cuts for essential old medicines, which leads to reliance on treatments unsuitable for patients, often much more expensive, or, even worse, to the absence of treatment.**

\*Académie nationale de Pharmacie/ 20 juin 2018: « Indisponibilité des médicaments» [https://www.acadpharm.org/dos\\_public/2018\\_06\\_20\\_AnP\\_RAPPORT\\_INDISPONIBILITE\\_MED\\_VF1.pdf](https://www.acadpharm.org/dos_public/2018_06_20_AnP_RAPPORT_INDISPONIBILITE_MED_VF1.pdf)

Sénat/ 27 septembre 2018: «Pénuries de médicaments et de vaccins : renforcer l'éthique de santé publique dans la chaîne du médicament» <http://www.senat.fr/rap/r17-737/r17-737-syn.pdf>

Rapport BIOT/4 février 2020 «Mission stratégique visant à réduire les pénuries de médicaments essentiels : rapport au Premier ministre» <https://www.vie-publique.fr/rapport/274702-mission-strategique-pour-reduire-les-penuries-de-medicaments-essentiels>

Parlement européen / 17 septembre 2020: «Pénurie de médicaments –comment faire face à un problème émergent» [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2020-0228\\_FR.htm](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2020-0228_FR.htm).