

Supply Chain Resource Council (SCRC) Report

December 5, 2022 Meeting

Executive Summary

RSV, Flu and COVID continue to drive patient volumes across both pediatric and adult health care organizations. Product recalls, SKU reduction and elimination notices combined with a persistent number of backorders is placing additional pressures on an already constrained health care supply chain. Workforce challenges and the tight labor market continue to be top of mind. The council discussed programs geared towards creating a pipeline for supply chain talent, and will be learning more about one Chicago health system's unique trainee program during our January 9th meeting. These and others details are shared in the full Council report below as well as aggregated member attendance information.

Aggregated member attendance information is at the bottom of this report.

▲ Workforce and Labor Programs

1. Workforce and staffing shortages continue to be top of mind concerns for supply chain leaders. Various efforts to raise awareness to the health care supply chain as a career, and trainee programs to create a supply chain talent pipeline were discussed. Common themes included; hiring interns from high school or vocational schools for summer programs or partnering with local universities. Some internships included engineering students who worked on existing projects. "They've come up with a lot great ideas and things we can do with some of our processes. We've had great success with this approach."

Recruitment and staffing efforts continue to come primarily from temp agencies or the supply chain talent is "grown" internally.

▲ Supply Shortages and Disruptions Update

1. RSV Impact
 - Free standing pediatric hospitals reported being "maxed out" with RSV and Flu cases. Another health care organization reported their patient volumes have hit "historic highs" across their system, exceeding bed capacity by 100+. Waste water and infection control trends point to RSV, Flu and COVID.

It was noted that pediatric supply shortages are now more disruptive than adult supply shortages. Exacerbating the situation is the limited number of pediatric product substitutes. Supply, pharma and equipment shortages are included as a sub-category in the Supply Chain Watch section below.

A hopeful trend; it was reported during a December 13th call with federal agencies that there has been an apparent decrease in RSV infection rates across all reported HHS regions.

2. Contrast Media
 - Product availability has improved for both the 300mg and 350mg Omnipaque, while certain SKU's remain on allocation including the ready to drink Omnipaque 9mg and 12mg solutions.

A price increase was announced, effective January 1st for all Omnipaque SKU's. It was noted that the potential exists for "panic buying" purchase of these products before the price increase goes into effect, which could negatively impact supply availability. One health care organization stated that the price increase represented a \$100K impact for a single SKU.

It was shared that Bracco is consolidating their SKU's to focus resources and increase production on their primary products.

One a positive note, as a result of the shortages earlier this year, it was noted that conservation strategies have led to improved utilization of contrast media.

3. The FDA released a letter to health care providers to consider alternative products for [MRI-Guided Breast Biopsy Grid Plates](#) due to shortages. One organization's approach has been to 3D print the grid plates after receiving the drawings from Phillips.
4. The FDA shared a communication on the reuse of [tracheostomy tubes or switching to appropriate alternatives](#) during the current shortage.
 - It is projected that Bivona backorders will not be cleared until spring of 2023, but product availability is improving. Attached is a letter from ICU Medical that provides more information.
 - It was shared that Medtronic has seen a significant increase in requests for their Shiley trach tubes, and as a result has had some impact to their availability based upon the volume of requests.
 - Below is a link to a blog post on tracheostomy tubes from ECRI. <https://blog.ecri.org/https/blog.ecri.org/3-ways-ecris-new-functional-equivalents-report-will-help-you-master-supply-chain-disruptions-0-0-1>
5. Medical Gas shortages
 - CO2
 - A health system in the northeast that previously reported allocations of CO2 shared that "we're starting to see a little bit of relief." Their allocation percentage has moved to 50% down from 75%.
 - Helium
 - A few hospitals reported that their Helium suppliers have alerted them to the current shortage situation. The latest indication of supply shortages is seen with suppliers no longer filling tanks 100% full. For one organization, their tanks have been filled to approximately 75% for the last four or five months.

▲ SCRC Watch List – Raising awareness to growing supply shortages

- Availability of profusion sterile packs from LivaNova are becoming a critical issue. One health system stated that, per LivaNova, the shortages are labor, raw material (Tyvek) and increased utilization (20-40%) related. LivaNova stated, in conversations with AdvaMed last week, that they are "already in discussions with customers about supply issues. It's been going on for about 14 months and is related to both labor and Tyvek issues (Tyvek supply issues can impact labor issues if we have production shutdowns and loose folks during that time)." Other manufacturers for these packs are Medtronic and Getinge.
- Philips fetal scalp electrodes (FSE) have been discontinued and are proprietary to Philips monitoring equipment. Adapters do not exist allowing for Philips FSE's to be used with other equipment and when asked about options, Philips national personnel said that they were unable to recommend any products that they have not validated.
- Philips Size 3 neonatal non-invasive blood pressure cuffs.
- 3M Steridrapes and loban due to product recalls.
- 3M Red Dot ECG monitoring electrodes.
- 3M Sterilization and Monitoring Chemical integrators.
- 3M Epidural trays due to discontinuation (as reported in the [October 24th SCRC report](#)).
- Single-use, reusable non-sterile blood pressure cuffs (as reported in the [August 29th](#) and [October 24th SCRC reports](#)).
- Cautery grounding pads (as reported in the [July 11th SCRC Report](#)).

About the Supply Chain Resource Council (SCRC)

The Supply Chain Resource Council (SCRC) convenes 88 supply chain and health care leaders from across the health care field with the goal of understanding the extent and impact supply shortages and disruptions are having within the hospital and patient care settings, as well as a capturing and documenting solutions to these challenges. Information collected during these calls is drafted into a report and shared with AHA, AHRMM and Professional Management Group (PMG) leaders, the White House Response Team, various Federal Agencies and the broader health care field. *The content of this report represents information, strategies and solutions from SCRC members but does not necessarily reflect policy positions of the AHA.*

Aggregated member attendance information for the December 5, 2022 SCRC meeting is below.

Title	Organization Type	Number of Beds	Purchasing Budget/ Spend	Region
Senior Vice President, Global Strategy & Analysis	Association	N/A		3
Quality and Regulatory Affairs Executive	Association			
Chief Relationship Officer	Association	N/A		3
Chief Operating Officer	Home Health	N/A		4
Clinical Value Analysis Manager	Hospital	1100	\$5-\$10 million	3
Deputy Chief	Defense Health Agency			7
Vice President – Global Supply Chain Solutions	Services	N/A		2
Director Product Management Perioperative	Services	N/A		4
Program Manager: Healthcare Supply Chain Collaborative	Association	N/A		3
Vice President, Supply Chain Services	Hospital	2,542		5
Senior Director, Demand Planning	Hospital			9
Director, Supply Chain Management	Hospital	220		6
Vice President, Supply Chain Solutions Group	Hospital	550	\$2-\$3 Million	3
Operations Manager	Hospital	2,059	More than \$500 million	6
Director Materials Management	Hospital	60		9
System Vice President and Chief Supply Chain Officer	Hospital	886		6
Senior Director	Hospital	1,689		4
Vice president, Supply Chain	Hospital	442		5
Vice President, Industry Association	Distributor	N/A	\$10 - \$25 million	3
SVP Supply Chain	Hospital	1,251	\$100-\$500 million	2
Executive Director Supply Chain	Hospital	900	\$100-\$500 million	4
Vice President, Sourcing & Member Engagement	GPO			
Chief Supply Chain Officer, VP	Academic Medical Center	1,000	More than \$500 million	9
CEO, Founder	Services	N/A		5
SVP, Supply Chain Management	Hospital	26,000	More than \$500 million	5
Vice President Supply Chain and Support Services	Academic Medical Center	850	\$10 - \$25 million	4
VP Supply Chain	Hospital	2800	\$2-\$3 million	2
AVP, Contract and Program Services	GPO	N/A	More than \$500 million	7
Senior Director Logistics and Distribution, Supply Chain	Hospital	551		2