

SUPPLEMENTARY FILE 3

INTERVIEW PROTOCOL FOR MANUFACTURERS

Discussion Topics	Examples of Specific probes
A. <u>General information</u>	1. Name: _____ 2. Name of your department: _____ 3. Gender: _____ 4. Age: _____ 5. Years of medicine related working experience: _____
1. How do you understand the term “medicine shortage”?	
2. During the past 12 months, has your company ever met the situation in which the medicinal products you operated cannot meet the demands?	✓ If yes, please list several names of those medicines _____
3. Has your company ever received notifications regarding to medicines shortages?	✓ If yes, from whom does your company receive the notification?
4. Has your company ever sent out notifications regarding to medicines shortages?	✓ If yes, whom does your company send the notification to?
5. Have your company ever taken some measures to prevent medicines shortages?	✓ If yes, please explain the details of the measures _____
6. Does your company have specific rules or procedures to struggle with medicines shortages?	✓ If yes, please explain the details of the rules or procedures _____
7. Do you think that your company is affected by medicines shortages?	✓ If yes, please explain the details of effects _____
8. What are the reasons of medicines shortages?	✓ What are the reasons of medicines shortages from the perspectives of medicine manufacturers?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ What are the reasons of medicines shortages from the perspectives of pharmaceutical distributor or wholesaler? ✓ What are the reasons of medicines shortages from the perspectives of healthcare institute? ✓ Are there any other reasons causing medicines shortages? ✓ Among those causes above mentioned, what are the three most important ones in your opinion?
<p>9. How to solve the medicines shortages problem in your opinion?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ What the governmental authorities could do to manage medicines shortages? ✓ What the drug manufacturers could do to deal with medicines shortages? ✓ What the distributors or wholesalers could do to deal with medicines shortages? ✓ What the healthcare institutions could do to deal with medicines shortages? ✓ Are there any other solutions to manage this problem? ✓ Among those solutions, what are the three most important ones in your opinion?
<p>10. Which type of factors contribute to the shortage of particular brand or medicines</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ What are the reasons for particular brand shortage in your opinion? ✓ What are the possible of solutions for particular brand shortage in your opinion? ✓ Why patients ask for specific brand of drug when equally comparable formulation is available? ✓ Why medical doctors keep on prescribing a brand whose supply is limited in market?

