Longitudinal Trends in U.S. Drug Shortages for Medications Used in Emergency Departments (2001-2014)

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Introduction

• Prescription drug shortages have become increasingly prevalent over the past decade.
• There are limited data as to how drug shortages can impact drugs used in emergency medicine settings.
• Research Question: To describe drug shortages affecting the management of patients in the ED.

Methods

• Drug shortage data from January 2001 to March 2014 were obtained from the University of Utah Drug Information Service (UUDIS).
• Two board-certified emergency medicine physicians classified drug shortages based on whether the drug is within the scope of emergency medicine practice, whether they are used for life-saving interventions or high-acuity conditions, and whether a substitute for the drug exists for its routine use in emergency care.
• Trends in the length of shortages for drugs used in emergency medicine (EM) practice were described using standard descriptive statistics and regression analysis.

Disclosures

• UUDIS receives some funding support from Novation LLC for providing drug shortage information.