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**Drug Shortages Threaten Patients**

What happens when the drug you need is in short supply? As of June 2019, there were 282 active drug shortages in the U.S., nearly 60 more than the year before. Treatments are being rationed. If you need immune globulin, which contains antibodies harvested from plasma, you may be put on a waiting list.

Causes include increased demand, manufacturing delays, and quirks in the reimbursement system. Shortages include cancer drugs, saline and the EpiPen. Could it be that managed care treatment protocols, government policies, drug rebates and myriad middlemen in the drug supply chain are partly or mostly to blame?

“**Drug Shortage Leaves Patients Without Immune-Disorder Treatment,**” Peter Loftus, The Wall Street Journal, August 9, 2019: [https://on.wsj.com/2yTYOG9](https://on.wsj.com/2yTYOG9)