

## **The Malta Medicines Authority intervention on the EU medicine shortages scenario**

The Medicines Intelligence and Access Unit within the Malta Medicines Authority actively works around the clock with a patient-centered approach to mitigate shortages and maintain the continuous provision of medicines by participating in the European network and communicating with other competent authorities to gather intelligence and enhance access to medicines by identifying reliable sources of medicines and using regulatory flexibilities. The Malta Medicines Authority has recommended over eight hundred (800) special authorisations for medicines in short supply in the EU which were all made accessible to Malta this year.

In spite of ongoing shortages at EU level, whereby the European Medicines Agency Medicines Shortages Single Point of Contact (SPOC) Working Party declared that twenty-five (25) out of thirty (30) EU/EEA Member States are affected by shortages of antibiotics resulting from an increase in demand, delays in manufacturing of medicines, production capacity issues including lack of personnel and packaging material, it is confirmed that a variety of cough mixtures, antibiotic medicines, specifically amoxicillin/clavulanic acid liquid formulation, and equivalent alternative medicines are today available in local community pharmacies.

The Malta Medicines Authority which falls under the portfolio of the Ministry for Active Aging is closely monitoring the European and local market for shortages of medicines, continuously liaises with stakeholders, compiles and utilises medicines intelligence to take the necessary actions to source medicines which are of good quality, safety and efficacy for the benefit of the patient.