

## **Drug Shortages More Common for Critical Medicines**

July 3, 2018

A majority of emergency physicians have experienced shortages or absences of critical medicines in an emergency department, according to a **recent survey** of 1328 emergency physicians published by the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP). Emergency departments are not fully prepared for a patient surge capacity in the event of a natural or man-made disaster or mass-casualty incident.

The same dilemma also can exist for critical emergency medication on board ships at sea.

Shortages continue to increase as supply decreases

September 21, 2018

### **Drug shortages increase and may add \$230 million to annual US drug costs.**

(Reuters Health) – Prescription drug shortages may drive up prices twice as much as they could rise with medicines in abundant supply, adding \$230 million a year to U.S. drug costs, a new study estimates.

Data for the drug shortages came from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and data on pricing came from AnalySource.

This is really a very simple case of supply and demand – if the supply is low and demand is high, the price goes up.

There is a possibility of switching to alternative drug therapy based on therapeutic category selection by a trained pharmacist, which could address both drug shortages and cost-containment.

Please contact us for additional information.

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