

Creating a More Resilient Supply Chain by Enhancing Public-Private Sector Information Sharing

The Healthcare Distribution Alliance (HDA)'s report, [Healthcare Supply Chain Resilience and Data Illumination](#), highlights the important role that effective bidirectional data and information sharing can have to enhance overall healthcare supply chain resilience. Data about product availability, supply chain capacity, patient needs and areas of increased demand are critical to response plans — and allow the supply chain to address emergent challenges while also supporting everyday healthcare needs.

Consistent communication between the private sector and federal government ensures the availability of accurate, complete, relevant and timely data to illuminate trends and bolster supply chain resilience. This bidirectional data and information sharing can enable coordination by:

- Helping to mitigate redundancies;
- Increasing data illumination; and,
- Improving public-private collaboration to identify and implement supply chain actions, such as conducting in-depth risk assessments and inventory counts.

HDA'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Enhancing bidirectional data and information sharing between the public and private sectors is a complex and nuanced effort. The following recommendations would strengthen data and information sharing:



Incentivize private-sector partners: Private partners want clear, measurable incentives and assurances for bidirectional data and information sharing. Increased clarity results in more impactful coordination and increased trust.



Provide clear data-request parameters: Private partners are seeking specific requests for information with clear parameters for the data, context and outputs to reduce reporting burdens and redundancies, resulting in:

- Improved coordination with private sector partners;
- Increased trust and expansion of public-private partnerships;
- Enhanced efficiency in data request response; and,
- Greater visibility for all healthcare supply chain partners.

Bidirectional Data and Information Sharing:

Data exchange between the private sector and federal government in which both parties transmit and receive information.

Data Illumination:

The continuous process of highlighting and sharing specific information in a meaningful time frame that can be used to take clear action.





Eliminate technological barriers and leverage automation: Evaluate data-sharing processes to reduce the burden on the private sector. Automation will streamline data sharing and improve visibility.



Improve information request management: Route data requests to appropriate stakeholders and clarify the analysis and use of private-sector data. Allowing private-sector partners to aggregate and analyze their data will reduce burdens on all parties.



Memorialize private sector stakeholder/government relationships: The public and private sectors should collaborate on mutually beneficial data-sharing frameworks to ensure long-term resilience to move beyond ad hoc requests and voluntary memorandums of understanding.



BUILDING A FRAMEWORK TO SUPPORT BIDIRECTIONAL DATA SHARING

Bidirectional data and information sharing provide a formal mechanism for moving relevant and time-sensitive data between government agencies, healthcare facilities, distribution centers and pharmacies during steady-state and emergency operations. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a roadmap with best practices to follow and build on.

The CARES Act specifically facilitates bidirectional data and information sharing by requiring data transparency and manufacturing reporting of drug information. Sections of the CARES Act (including [Sec. 3112](#)), codifies a framework codifies a framework for bidirectional data and information sharing.

The Supply Chain Control Tower exists via data-sharing agreements between the public and private sectors, including HDA-member healthcare distributors. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it informed the demand picture to improve response capabilities. The SCCT enhanced coordination between the private and public sectors on supply chain response. There is an opportunity to clarify the role of the SCCT in the [Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness Act \(PAHPA\)](#) reauthorization.

There is a need for ongoing formal data-sharing relationships. Many private sector organizations maintain formal agreements or memorandums with federal counterparts. While these efforts improved data-sharing efficacy, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, going forward there is a need for universal adoption and general consistency.

Learn about the distribution industry's approach to healthcare supply chain resilience and data illumination through [HDA's report](#). Visit hda.org/preparedness-and-response for additional information.