

Dawn O'Connell
Former Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response
Answers to Additional Questions for the Record
Hearing: June 11, 2025

The Honorable Diana Harshbarger

- 1. During your tenure overseeing the SNS did our office ever undertake any market surveillance on critical medicine acquisitions to determine if any domestic end-to-end manufacturers existed?**
 - a. If not, why?**
 - b. Was your department aware that your decision to compete the September 2022 amoxicillin award as a small business set-aside meant the last US manufacturer of the drug would be excluded from bidding?**

ANSWER:

During my tenure, ASPR's Center for Industrial Base Management and Supply Chain (IBMSC) conducted regular market surveillance of critical medical supplies. This surveillance informed their investments in strengthening domestic manufacturing of several key medical supplies including Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), active pharmaceutical ingredients, and key starting materials. The SNS used IBMSC's market research, when applicable, to inform their purchases of critical medical supplies. The decision to use the small business set aside to purchase amoxicillin was made at the Department-level, not by ASPR or the SNS.

- 2. Did your office conduct risk assessments regarding supply chain vulnerabilities when sourcing critical antibiotics from foreign manufacturers, particularly given the concentration of active pharmaceutical ingredient production in China and India?**
 - a. If so, why did it continue to purchase foreign-origin amoxicillin when domestic supply existed?**

ANSWER:

Yes, ASPR conducted risk assessments regarding supply chain vulnerabilities which is why IBMSC invested in the domestic production of active pharmaceutical ingredients and key starting materials. The decision regarding which procurement vehicle to use to purchase amoxicillin was made at the Department-level, not by ASPR or the SNS.

3. During your time leading the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response, was a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis conducted that weighed the potential costs of supply chain disruption against any price premium for domestic sourcing when making SNS procurement decisions?

ANSWER:

SNS procurement decisions are informed by several factors including cost, quality, mission-readiness, and availability. Whenever possible, the SNS has purchased domestically manufactured supplies including PPE. I believe the SNS should continue to prioritize domestically manufactured goods whenever feasible.