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Governing Global Pharmaceutical Dependencies

A framework for exposure, trusted cooperation and responsible de-risking.

Executive argument

International dependence is often beneficial. It becomes a security problem when opaque, concentrated, difficult to substitute and exposed to correlated geopolitical or operational shocks.

Assessing exposure

Institutions should map dependencies beyond direct suppliers to ingredients, materials, packaging, equipment, data services and logistics. Assessment should combine concentration, criticality, substitutability and recovery time.

Cooperative resilience

Trusted-country agreements, regulatory reliance, shared surveillance and coordinated reserves can reduce risk more efficiently than indiscriminate reshoring.

Conclusion

The aim is not pharmaceutical autarky but sufficient diversity, visibility and collective capacity to withstand disruption.

Institutional note

This foundational paper advances the Medicines Security Institute's developing research programme. It supports informed discussion and does not constitute medical, legal or investment advice.