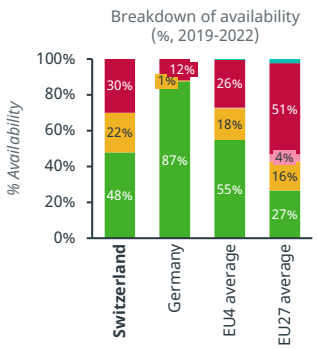
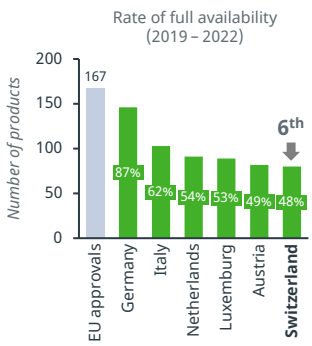
Building on the W.A.I.T. Indicator 2023 Survey

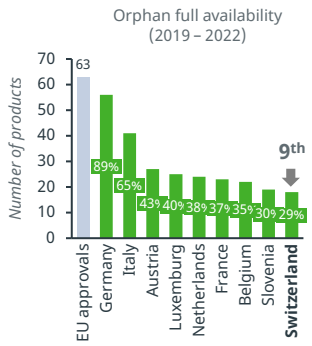
Switzerland Factsheet

Improving the availability of medicines authorised in the European Union (EU) and Switzerland is a key priority for the European medicines regulatory bodies and for the pharmaceutical industry. EFPIA and IQVIA publish an annual study called the 'Patients W.A.I.T. (Waiting to Access Innovative Therapies) Indicator' which been running in evolving formats since 2004 and is the largest European study into innovative medicines availability and the time to patient access. This factsheet provides the major metrics, and expert interpretation of the W.A.I.T. data in a Swiss market context.

Availability metrics

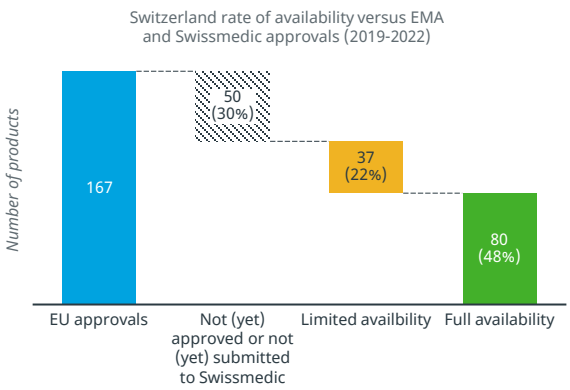


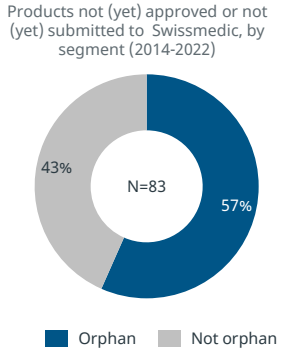




- Only 48% of medicines are fully available to patients in Switzerland, with 22% only available through case-by-case reimbursement (Art 71a-b KVV)
- When comparing fully available products across Europe, Switzerland ranks 6th
- Switzerland falls down the rankings to 9th place when comparing only fully available orphan products

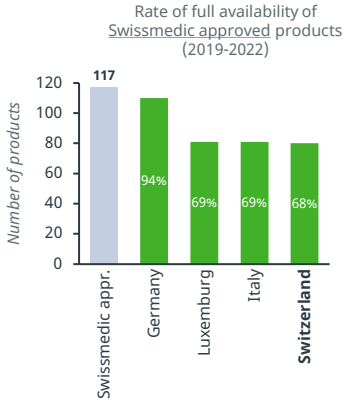
Authorisation metrics

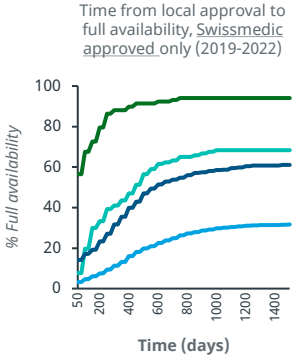


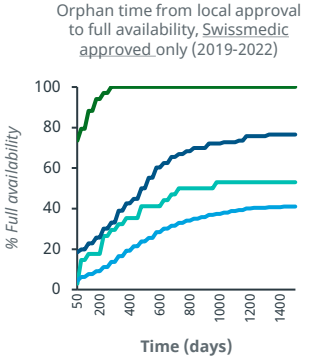


- 30% of EMA approved products (2019-2022) included in the W.A.I.T. study have either not (yet) been locally approved or not (yet) submitted to Swissmedic
- 22% of EMA approvals are only available through case-by-case reimbursement (Art 71a-b KVV)
- 57% of products not (yet) approved or not (yet) submitted to Swissmedic are orphan products

Reimbursement metrics







- Even when comparing the European availability of the 117 Swissmedic approved products, only 68% are fully available
- Germany remains faster than Switzerland even for Swissmedic approved products
- Orphan products' full availability reaches 30% for Switzerland in the first year, before plateauing at ~45%

Notes on definitions: See overleaf.
Sources: EFPIA Patients W.A.I.T. Indicator 2023 Survey; IQVIA MIDAS data Q4 2023 MAT; IQVIA HTA-Accelerator data

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Summary and key findings

- Switzerland ranks 6th in the overall European market for full availability from 2019 – 2022
- Switzerland ranks 9th for orphan full availability from 2019 – 2022
- 30% of EMA approvals are not (yet) approved or not (yet) submitted in Switzerland
- Over half of all products not (yet) approved or not (yet) submitted to Swissmedic (57%) between 2014 and 2022 are orphan products
- Even when comparing the European availability of the 117 Swissmedic approved products, only 68% are fully available in Switzerland

48%
of EMA approved products are fully available in Switzerland

6th
country in Europe for full availability of EMA approved products

29%
of EMA approved orphan products are fully available in Switzerland

9th
country in Europe for full availability of EMA approved orphan products

Key definitions

Terminology	Definition
Availability *(standard definition)*	Inclusion of a centrally-approved medicine on the public reimbursement list in a country.
Full Availability *(standard definition)*	Full reimbursement through a national reimbursement system.
Limited Availability *(standard definition)*	Only reimbursed for restricted patient cohort.
Time to Availability *(standard definition)*	The first date of availability on the public reimbursement list.
Availability	The medicine gained market approval by Swissmedic.
Full Availability	The authorised medicinal product is available to all patients once the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) has set a price and has placed the medicinal product on the so-called speciality list (SL).
Limited Availability	For products pending reimbursement, patients have restricted reimbursement access. Such restricted access includes 'individual reimbursement' regulated by Art. 71a-b of KVV ordinance.
Time to Availability	The first date of inclusion in the specialities list (full availability products only).
EMA approval	Centralised marketing authorisation of a medicine for human use in the EU. The European Medicines Agency (EMA) plays a key role in this procedure.
Swissmedic approval	Marketing authorisation of a medicine for human use in Switzerland. Swissmedic is the authority responsible for the authorisation and supervision of therapeutic products in Switzerland.
Innovative medicines	A medicine that contains an active substance or combination of active substances that has not been authorised before.
All products	All innovative medicines with centralised marketing authorisation between 2019-2022, sourced from EMA EPAR list (accessed Nov 2023).
Orphan products	Orphan medicinal product (OMP) designation from EMA.

Useful links

- EFPIA Patients W.A.I.T. Indicator 2023 Survey (link)
- New data from EFPIA reveals multiple factors leading to unequal access to medicines for patients across Europe (link)

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