



International Journal of Logistics Research and Applications >

A Leading Journal of Supply Chain Management

Volume 19, 2016 - Issue 4

2,586 36

Views CrossRef citations to date Altmetric

Case Report

# A case study of kanban implementation within the pharmaceutical supply chain

Marina Papalexis , David Bamford & Benjamin Dehe

Pages 239-255 | Received 26 Nov 2014, Accepted 19 Jul 2015, Published online: 18 Sep 2015

Cite this article <https://doi.org/10.1080/13675567.2015.1075478>

Check for updates

Sample our Engineering & Technology Journals  
>> [Sign in here](#) to start your access to the latest two volumes for 14 days

Full Article

Figures & data

References

Citations

Metrics

Reprints & Permissions

Read this article

Share

## Abstract

This study explores the implementation of the kanban system, which is a Lean technique, within the pharmaceutical supply chain (PSC). The case study provides insights on the benefits and challenges arising from the application of this technique, within a group of cooperative pharmacists, in Greece. The research questions developed from the review of the literature were tested using evidence from field-based, action research within a pharmaceutical organisation. The reported case study contributes to the longer term debate on assessing the Lean maturity level within the health-care sector. There are two primary findings: (i) that the adoption of kanban system provides a strategic benefit and improves the quality of services. (ii) It also provides a basis for a strategy of operational change; it gives the opportunity to the

organisation to move away from the current push delivery and logistics systems towards improved logistics strategy models.

Keywords:

lean deployment    kanban    health-care sector

## Disclosure statement

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the authors.

## Related research

People also read

Recommended articles

Cited by  
36

## Information for

Authors

R&D professionals

Editors

Librarians

Societies

## Opportunities

Reprints and e-prints

Advertising solutions

Accelerated publication

Corporate access solutions

## Open access

Overview

Open journals

Open Select

Dove Medical Press

F1000Research

## Help and information

Help and contact

Newsroom

All journals

Books

## Keep up to date

Register to receive personalised research and resources  
by email

 Sign me up

  

  

Copyright © 2026 Informa UK Limited Privacy policy Cookies Terms & conditions

Accessibility



Registered in England & Wales No. 01072954  
5 Howick Place | London | SW1P 1WG