



PFAS in Health Care

Perfluoroalkyl & polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a diverse group of synthetic compounds distinguished by their versatility, strength, and durability, setting them apart from other chemicals. There are perhaps as many as 700 commercially active substances that may be considered PFAS. However, not all PFAS compounds are the same - they contain unique properties and characteristics that yield distinct environmental and health profiles. PFAS compounds are highly differentiated, and while some may require limitations or prohibitions from certain uses, others have well-established profiles and do not pose unreasonable risks to human health or the environment when used appropriately.

The global pharmaceutical and medical products industries use and manufacture billions of dollars' worth of life-saving products dependent on PFAS compounds:

- **ACTIVE PHARMACEUTICAL INGREDIENTS:** Of the pharmaceuticals approved and used globally between 1954 and 2021, 360 would be included under the broadest definitions of PFAS, including but not limited to antidepressants, cardiovascular health medications, and COVID-19 treatments, and over 500 more are in late-stage clinical trials.
- **MEDICAL DEVICES:** Implantable devices such as vascular grafts, stents, and surgical meshes rely on fluoropolymers for long-term performance, as well as devices like Metered Dose Inhalers and MRI machines.
- **MEDICAL PACKAGING:** Specialty fluoropolymer films help preserve shelf life, drug stability, and enhance containment safety.
- **MANUFACTURING, R&D:** The pharmaceutical industry depends on the advanced performance of PFAS to achieve purity in manufacturing and research.

PFAS compounds are essential to medical advancements that enhance the safety and effectiveness of drugs and devices, lower the risk of medical complications, and improve treatment outcomes. There are currently **no adequate replacements** for PFAS compounds in these critical applications.



U.S. MEDICINE AND PHARMACEUTICAL IMPACT*

In total, medicine and pharmaceutical manufacturing and related activity helps contribute more than **1.2 million jobs** and nearly **\$304 billion** toward GDP.

DRIVING SCIENCE-BASED MANAGEMENT POLICIES

Creating regulations that treat all PFAS compounds the same, or impose blanket restrictions on uses, would have devastating economic and safety consequences for the U.S. health care industry. Sustainable management of PFAS compounds enables continued economic advancement when using a **science- and risk-based approach** to effectively administer regulations that protect human health and the environment.

*Quantifying the Economic Contribution of Key Industries which use PFAS as Vital Inputs, Inforum, Feb. 6, 2023