



HRT Supply Crisis: reading and vocabulary

Part 1: vocabulary

You're going to read an article about the supply of hormone replacement therapy (HRT). Before you read, complete the definitions with these words.

brain fog	patch adhesive	sustainable
(to) fill a prescription	proactive	swapping
hot flush	spike	taskforce
in-demand	stigma	(an) uptick in

1. _____ : a very high amount usually before a fall
2. _____ : sudden hot, uncomfortable feeling
3. _____ : describes something that is strongly requested or asked for
4. _____ : group of people who are brought together to do a particular job
5. _____ : sticky backing which adheres a transdermal patch to skin
6. _____ : increase in the number of something
7. _____ : strong feeling of disapproval people have about something
8. _____ : condition in which you can't think clearly or concentrate well
9. _____ : describes being able to continue over a long period
10. _____ : supply a medicine that a doctor has prescribed
11. _____ : the exchanging of one thing for another
12. _____ : describes taking action which causes change

Part 2: reading

A. Click the link to read the text. Then decide if the statements are true or false.

[HRT crisis: what's causing the shortages of menopause treatments?](#)

1. There is a supply problem with HRT products because more women are asking their doctors to prescribe the products. True / False
2. Recent problems have been solely caused by manufacturing issues with adhesives on the back of HRT patches. True / False
3. Women get a maximum three-month's worth of oestrogen each time they have a prescription filled. True / False
4. The *Davina effect* refers to the way a TV presenter informed women about possible treatments for menopause symptoms. True / False
5. The UK brought in measures to restrict the sale of HRT products because of safety issues. True / False
6. The HRT taskforce sets the price for HRT products for the NHS. True / False
7. Women who buy HRT products from illegal sources or who swap their HRT for a different product may cause themselves harm. True / False
8. It's important for the government to act on the HRT supply issue as hormone replacement therapy is used for several conditions. True / False

Part 3: speaking

Discuss questions 1–3 with your partner or group.

1. Have your patients experienced any of the issues in the article?
2. Do you think that HRT should be available for free?
3. What issues can menopausal women face?