

Access to Healthcare

1. [Government caps price of 18 formulation packs](#) – Economic Times

Same appeared in:

- a. [Mint](#)
 - b. [Hindustan Times](#)
 - c. [DNA](#)
2. [Editorial: Right prescription](#) – Financial Express
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The government has brought 18 more drugs, used to treat cancer, inflammation, infections, and others, under price control as part of its efforts to make life saving medicines affordable in the country. In a statement, drug pricing regulator National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) said, "it has fixed/revised the prices in respect of 39 formulation packs ... and one corrigendum ... related to the ceiling price fixation of Paclitaxel injection." The latest move of the government will impact various pharmaceutical companies, including Abbott Healthcare, Cipla, Cadila Pharmaceuticals, Dr Reddy's Laboratories and Torrent Pharma.

2. [Editorial: Right prescription](#) – Financial Express

The government would do well to pay heed to the suggestions of a task force on the 2013 Drug Price Control Order (DPCO), asking for removal of some medicines from it as well as relaxing some of the price controls. While this would mean allowing increases in the prices of essential medicines, including those for treating ailments like diabetes, cancer and cardiovascular diseases along with antibiotics, this is necessary in the interest of a stable and predictable price control mechanism which will benefit both the drug-makers and also the patients. It is also true that any hike in the prices of medicines, especially the essential ones, would be opposed vehemently—the Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers recently recommended that the scope of price control be extended from the current list of 509 formulations to the entire industry since 'all medicines are essential and (are) taken only when (they are) needed by the patient'.