

1. [AstraZeneca helped by new drugs as cholesterol pill fades](#) – Reuters

Generic competition to cholesterol buster Crestor in the U.S. market pushed second-quarter core earnings down by nearly a third at drugmaker AstraZeneca, which is now banking on new cancer medicines to revive its fortunes. The profit drop had been expected, however, and investors took heart from encouraging early sales of newer products, lifting the shares 2 percent on Thursday. Analysts predict falling group sales and profits this year and next before a return to growth in 2018, when the impact of patent expiries will lessen and sales of newer medicines should have picked up speed.

2. [Bristol-Myers beats forecasts, as hepatitis, cancer drugs deliver](#) – Reuters

Bristol-Myers Squibb Co reported better than expected quarterly results, fueled by sales of its treatments for hepatitis C, cancer and blood clots, and slightly raised its full year profit forecast. The U.S. drugmaker said on Thursday it earned \$1.17 billion in the second quarter, or 69 cents per share, compared with a loss of \$130 million, or 8 cents per share, in the year ago quarter, when it took a big acquisition-related charge. Excluding special items, Bristol-Myers earned 69 cents per share, topping the average analyst forecast of 67 cents.

3. [Fosun agrees to buy KKR-backed Gland Pharma for \\$1.4 billion](#): Source – The Economic Times

Hyderabad-based Gland Pharma said on Thursday it signed a definitive agreement with Shanghai Fosun Pharmaceutical (Group), a leading Chinese healthcare provider, to sell 86 per cent stake in the Indian company for up to \$1.26 billion. The deal, the largest purchase of an Indian asset by a Chinese company and the biggest inbound M&A so far this year, will allow Fosun to gain control of a new stable of injectable medicines as well as manufacturing facilities in India. ET reported in its June 6 edition that Fosun was the lead contender to acquire Gland and had submitted a \$1.27 billion bid. PVN Raju, founder of Gland, and his son and CEO of the company, Dr Ravi Penmetsa, will continue to be on the board, and Penmetsa will continue as managing director and CEO. The family will retain a stake in Gland.

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4. [MSF to oppose Pfizer's bid for pneumonia vaccine patent](#) – Business Standard
5. [Centre to make prescription for generic medicines mandatory](#) – The Hindu Business Line
6. [Govt mulling making pharma mkting uniform code compulsory](#) – The Times of India
7. [Drug price regulation saved Rs 4,988cr in 2 yrs: Govt](#) – The Times of India
8. [Forum raises serious concern about inclusion of stents in NLEM](#) – The Times of India
9. [MRP for coronary stents to be announced in three months](#) – The Hindu
10. [UK Drugs Giant GSK Invests 275 Million Pounds Despite Brexit](#) – NDTV
11. [Advancells to launch oncology-specific cell line to help oncologists manage tumours](#) – Pharmabiz.com
12. ['Pharma-doctors nexus deprives poor of low-cost medicine'](#) – Merinews.com

4. [MSF to oppose Pfizer's bid for pneumonia vaccine patent](#) – Business Standard

Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) on Thursday said it will defend the rights of millions of children around the world to be protected against pneumonia, and will oppose US pharma giant Pfizer's bid for a patent on the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13) at a hearing in India's patent office on Friday. The international humanitarian-aid organisation, also called Doctors Without Borders, filed a "patent opposition" to prevent the US pharmaceutical giant from getting a patent on PCV13, a MSF statement said.

5. [Centre to make prescription for generic medicines mandatory](#) – The Hindu Business Line

Minister for Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Ananth Kumar told Rajya Sabha on Thursday that the Centre is trying to make prescription of generic name of a medicine mandatory by amending the Medical Council Act.

He also added that the Centre was planning to allow pharmacists to provide a generic drug to a patient even if the drug recommended by the physician is a branded one. "This measure will help a number of poor patients," Ananth Kumar said while replying to a calling attention motion on the high prices of essential medicines. He said the prices of medicines included in the National List of Essential Medicines have gone down in the recent past as a result of downward trend in the wholesale price index.

6. [Govt mulling making pharma mkting uniform code compulsory](#) – The Times of India

The government is considering making the voluntary uniform code for Pharma Marketing Practices compulsory and would open 3,000 Jan Aushadhi outlets across the country, the Rajya Sabha was informed today. During a debate on high drug prices, the government also said that savings to consumers on account of revision and price fixing of essential drugs amounted to Rs 4,988 crore in the last two years. Samajwadi Party leader Naresh Aggarwal, who moved the call attention motion on high prices of essential medicines due to the absence of pharmaceutical pricing policy in the country, sought jail term for those who exploited the poor in the name of healthcare.

7. [Drug price regulation saved Rs 4,988cr in 2 yrs: Govt](#) – The Times of India

Various drug price regulatory measures by the government helped consumers save Rs 4,988 crore over the last two years, Rajya Sabha was told on Thursday. Following approval of the pharmaceutical pricing policy in 2012, the government has capped prices of essential medicines at least three times since 2013, when the policy was first implemented by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority through the Drugs Price Control Order (DPCO), 2013.

8. [Forum raises serious concern about inclusion of stents in NLEM](#) – The Times of India

NATHEALTH, a unique forum comprising of both healthcare providers and medical technology companies, have strongly opposed inclusion of cardiac stents in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM). The forum has underlined that the inclusion is contradictory to the government's recently expressed desire to separate medical devices from drugs by proposing a new law, which is proposed to be tabled in the upcoming winter session.

9. [MRP for coronary stents to be announced in three months](#) – The Hindu

Within three months, the general public can expect the government to announce the maximum retail price for coronary stents, which has recently been added to the national list of essential medicines (NLEM) 2015, effectively bringing them under price control. While patients, doctors and Indian-stent manufactures have welcomed the move, others aren't celebrating the announcement. Recommendations: Speaking about the move, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, K.L. Sharma explained that the move has been based on recommendations which noted that all types of stents, including the latest biodegradable stents should be put on the list.

10. [UK Drugs Giant GSK Invests 275 Million Pounds Despite Brexit](#) – NDTV

Drugmaker GlaxoSmithKline on Wednesday revealed plans to invest 275 million pounds into three of its British manufacturing sites, shrugging off Brexit worries. The investment -- worth USD 361 million or 328 million euros -- will be ploughed into facilities in Barnard Castle in northeastern England, Ware in the southeast, and Montrose in Scotland, GSK said in a statement. The move will "boost production and support delivery of its latest innovative respiratory and large molecule biological medicines", it said, adding that the "vast majority" of products will be exported globally.

11. [Advancells to launch oncology-specific cell line to help oncologists manage tumours](#) – Pharmabiz.com

Advancells, a Noida-based stem cell therapy solution provider, will soon launch an oncology-specific cell line where the company will collect peripheral blood from the patient and process it to create stem cells like dendritic cells and Natural Killer Cells (NK Cells). These cells have the potential to get attached to the tumour in the body and destroy the same. This will be a helpful tool for the oncologist in managing the tumours. Cancer is the second biggest killer after cardiovascular disease in the country. Considering this, we have undertaken an initiative to come up with oncology-specific cell line. Traditional treatments like chemotherapy, radiotherapy have a good chance of killing cancer cells but also kills the stem cells in the bone marrow, said Vipul Jain, founder of Advancells. "Advancells helps in providing regenerative medicine based therapeutic solutions for the treatment of various life threatening and lifestyle diseases. We develop treatment protocols and produce stem cells in our lab that can be used by our partner hospitals and doctors to treat these diseases. We follow international guidelines as established by ISSCR, US FDA and ICMR. Advancells has tie-ups with over 50 doctors and 10 hospitals across the country to provide treatments", he said.

12. ['Pharma-doctors nexus deprives poor of low-cost medicine'](#) – Merinews.com

According to a notification by Medical Council of India (MCI), all registered medical professionals in India should write the generic or chemical names of drugs in their prescriptions and not the brand names. But how many doctors in our neighbourhood follow this practice religiously? "Medical practitioners, who are supposed to serve patients' interests, are unfortunately aiding to fill the coffers of pharmaceutical companies who swamp their clinics and make doctors prescribe their costly drugs to gullible patients, denying them the cheaper generic alternatives. This leaves "no-medicine" for poor who can't afford to buy branded drugs from chemists, who seldom keep generics owing to low demand and unprofitable margin," said Ankur Agarwal, CEO of MedKart Pharmacy, which offers life-saving generic medicines to needy through physical and online outlets.