

1. [Re-fixing ceiling prices: NPPA asks pharma companies to submit sales data](#) – The Indian Express

Initiating the process of re-fixing the ceiling prices of eight essential drugs, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has asked various pharmaceutical companies, which are involved in their production and sales, to submit their sales and pricing data.

The NPPA had fixed the ceiling prices for these drugs — Azithromycin + Dexamthasone Phospate, Chlorthalidone + Amlodipine, Tacrolimus, Coagulation Factor VIII, Fluconazole, Carboxymethylcellulose, Gemcitabine Hydrochloride + Filgrastim and Budesnide + Formoterol — in the time period of last two years.

2. **Editorial:** [Partial cure](#) – The Indian Express

Outfits selling medicines through online portals will now have to adhere to a “conduct of code”. The Internet Pharmacy Association’s Self Regulating Code of Conduct that was released on Monday asks e-pharmacies to process scheduled medicines “only against a valid copy of prescription (physical or scanned) of a registered medical practitioner and ensure that no schedule X and other sensitive habit-forming medicines are processed through their platform”. The online pharmacy sector has also been asked to devise mechanisms to address consumer queries or grievances.

3. [India needs indigenous stents](#) – The Hindu Business Line

Hospitals are taking the poor and health illiterate for a ride thanks to lax rules and thin public spends on healthcare R&D

Indians aren’t exactly known for their health literacy. Most of our information is picked up from well-meaning relatives and Google. We scan the first few lines of health articles, and sit back complacently, confident that we are smarter than our friends. Take the business of stents. We know that these can prevent us from dying from heart attacks.

Some of us have read the news that appeared in July this year, about the Government’s move to include two categories — bare metal, and drug eluting (which includes biodegradable and bioresorbable vascular scaffold) — under the national list of essential medicines, subjecting them to price control regulations. The objectives were to make stents affordable to the neediest, and bridge the gap between demand and supply of angioplasties and stenting procedures.

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2. Editorial: [Partial cure](#) – The Indian Express
3. [India needs indigenous stents](#) – The Hindu Business Line
4. [534 Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendras functioning in 26 States/UTs](#) – Business Standard
5. [Chemists’ association writes to PM Modi: Delayed payments set to hit supply of medicines](#) – The Indian Express
6. [Demonetisation births health crisis; chemists warn Kerala may run out of life-saving drugs](#) – The Financial Express
7. [USFDA issues warning letter to Wockhardt's UK facility](#) – The Economic Times
8. [Pharmacists object to health ministry’s move to amend D&C Act to conduct refresher course for unqualified persons](#) - Pharmabiz

But only a handful of India's people will benefit from this move: 70 per cent of the country's population lives in remote rural areas, with no access to adequate medical facilities, doctors, and life-saving treatments. The absence of extensive public health facilities drives the majority to seek private medical treatment, leading to heavy out-of-pocket expenses on private medical services.

4. [534 Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendras functioning in 26 States/UTs](#) – **Business Standard**

With a view to achieving the objective of making available quality medicines at affordable prices, the Government has been taking several regulatory and fiscal measures from time to time. In order to provide further relief to the common man in the area of healthcare, a countrywide campaign for ensuring availability of quality generic medicines at affordable prices to all, in the name of Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Yojana (PMJAY) has been started. As on date, there are 534 Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendras (PMJAK) functioning over 26 States/UTs. The PMJAY is being implemented by the Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI).

5. [Chemists' association writes to PM Modi: Delayed payments set to hit supply of medicines](#) – **The Indian Express**

Chemists across India are apprehensive about a delay in the procurement of medicines due to the demonetisation of high denomination currency notes. While they will stop accepting Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes from midnight of November 24, these shops have already seen a delay in the payment of bills by medical retailers to wholesalers, and eventually to pharma companies.

In a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, J S Shinde, president of the All India Chemists and Druggists Association, has warned that the flow of medicines — especially to rural areas — will be affected due to the delay by medical retail shops in depositing money in banks.

6. [Demonetisation births health crisis; chemists warn Kerala may run out of life-saving drugs](#) – **The Financial Express**

Kerala could run out of vital life-saving drugs and other medicines by the end of the month if the drug manufacturers do not extend the credit period, officials of the All Kerala Chemists and Druggists Association (AKCDA) told FE.

The association, which has a membership of 15, 000, including retailers and wholesale distributors, said with demonetisation, they are unable to conduct business transactions with stockists and drug manufacturers. "Retail chemists are allowed to accept the demonetised R500 and R1,000 notes from the customers against sales with valid prescription, but the wholesalers or drug companies do not accept the notes. The problem is compounded in the rural areas where majority of the retailers have accounts only with the cooperative banks," Thomas Raju, general secretary of AKCDA said.

7. [USFDA issues warning letter to Wockhardt's UK facility](#) – **The Economic Times**

The US FDA issued a warning letter to Wockhardt's stepdown (indirect) subsidiary CP Pharmaceuticals in UK, marking a prolonged phase of adverse news related to the drug maker's global manufacturing facilities.

Earlier this year, a US FDA inspection recorded nine observations at its newly built unit in Shendra. In 2014, the drug regulator found the company short on sanitation conditions among other issues at its Morton Grove facility near Chicago. The November 16 warning letter on CP Pharmaceuticals addressed to Wockhardt chairman Habil Khorakiwala, pointed to "poor practices" related to written procedures to prevent microbiological contamination for sterile products.

8. [Pharmacists object to health ministry's move to amend D&C Act to conduct refresher course for unqualified persons](#) - Pharmabiz

Urging the Union government to immediately roll back its decision to amend the Pharmacy and D&C Acts to enable unqualified persons to handle pharmacies under the pretext of shortage of qualified pharmacists, associations of pharmacists all over India are gearing up to block the move by holding national level agitations, protests, rallies and filing suits in courts.

Protest marches will be conducted towards all the zonal and sub-zonal offices of the Central Standard Drugs Control Organisation (CDSCO) all over the country by mobilizing support of all the registered pharmacists and pharmacy students in the country, informed leaders of various associations.