

1. [Opinion: Broad-spectrum view](#) – The Hindu Business Line

The pricing of medicines in India, now the subject of a petition before the Supreme Court, is once again in the news, with the Centre likely to set up an inter-ministerial committee to look into the assumptions underlying the Drug Price Control Order (DPCO) 2013. The petitioners, the All India Drug Action Network and other consumer bodies, have essentially raised two objections to DPCO 2013. First, too many essential and life-saving medicines have been left out of price control; and second, the ceiling price for a drug has not been properly arrived at. Surprisingly, DPCO2013 brings 348 drugs under price control, which works out to about 600 formulations and dosages or an estimated 20 per cent of pharma sector turnover. This is against 76 drugs under DPCO 1995.

1. [Opinion: Broad-spectrum view](#) – The Hindu Business Line
2. [Merck inks drug discovery collaboration pact with Polish firm Selvita](#) – Business Standard
3. [Devices' units want Centre to amend Rule 115 allowing alternative batch release criteria for devices sterilized by EO](#) – Pharmabiz.com
4. [US FDA issues new Integrated Summary of Effectiveness to pharma industry](#) – Pharmabiz.com
5. [Quality of pharmacy education to be raised to make graduates take up careers in industry: Dr K P R Chowdhari](#) – Pharmabiz.com
6. [UP to incur Rs 14,400 cr on public healthcare](#) – Business Standard
7. [Prescription drug use has risen in the U.S.](#) – Reuters

2. [Merck inks drug discovery collaboration pact with Polish firm Selvita](#) – Business Standard

Merck, a leading science and technology company, has entered into a three-year collaboration to validate new therapeutic concepts in the field of [oncology](#) with Polish firm Selvita. The aim of the collaboration is to deliver potential first-in-class small molecules as lead candidate drugs for multiple oncology indications. Both companies will contribute funding and resources to support the collaboration, as well as bring their expertise in target validation, bioinformatics, medicinal chemistry, in vitro and in vivo biology, and toxicology.

3. [Devices' units want Centre to amend Rule 115 allowing alternative batch release criteria for devices sterilized by EO](#) – Pharmabiz.com

Medical devices industry has raised serious concern over the Centre's lackadaisical attitude towards addressing the core issues affecting the sector and have sought immediate intervention from them on the same. This demand comes in the wake of the governments decision not to amend Rule 115, and add 115A, that will permit batch release criteria of ethylene oxide (EO).

In a letter addressed to Dr Jagdish Prasad, Director General of Health Services and chairman of DTAB, Association of Indian Medical Device Industry (AIMED) recently urged the Centre to once again review their request for amending Rule 115 permitting alternative batch release criteria for medical devices sterilized by EO or by Radiation. Especially since the current Rules are only designed for pharmaceuticals industry and is limited to sterilization by heat, autoclave and steam sterilization only.

4. [US FDA issues new Integrated Summary of Effectiveness to pharma industry](#) – Pharmabiz.com  
US FDA has issued an Integrated Summary of Effectiveness (ISE) to the pharmaceutical industry which is viewed by the industry to provide the much- needed support during submission of its New Drug Application (NDA) and Biologics License Application (BLA).

According to the regulatory authority, the guidance provides a direction on the recommended content of the integrated summary of effectiveness (ISE) for inclusion in NDA or BLA. Although there are no regulations requiring an ISE for BLA submissions, applicants are encouraged to provide an ISE because it represents an opportunity to present a coherent analysis of the drug's benefits.

5. [Quality of pharmacy education to be raised to make graduates take up careers in industry: Dr K P R Chowdhari](#) – Pharmabiz.com

Even though pharmacy colleges in India are producing large number of pharmacy graduates and post graduates every year, only 15 to 20 per cent of them are capable for taking up a career in industry.

More than 80 per cent of the qualified pharmacists are unfit for the jobs in various segments in the manufacturing industry, said Dr K P R Chowdhari, research director, Vikas Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Rajahmundry in Andhra Pradesh. He was delivering a speech on the subject 'Need of Industry-Academia Interaction in Pharmacy Education' in a seminar conducted as part of Madhya Pradesh IPA Conclave in Indore.

6. [UP to incur Rs 14,400 cr on public healthcare](#) – Business Standard  
Uttar Pradesh government is estimated to incur about Rs 14,400 crore on public healthcare. Referring to the data of the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, International Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR) Dean Prof A K Agarwal said in contrast the Indian private healthcare industry was expected to grow seven times in the next five years due to the surge in the healthcare sector.

He stressed the need for training hospital management personnel to keep pace with the explosive growth in healthcare sector.

7. [Prescription drug use has risen in the U.S.](#) – Reuters  
Prescription drug users rose from 51 percent of U.S. adults in 1999 to 59 percent of adults in 2011, according to a new study.

Many factors are at play. New drugs enter the market and old drugs lose patent protection and become less costly, she noted. Meanwhile, patterns of prescription drug use evolve with scientific advances and with changes in clinical guidelines and policies regarding drug marketing and promotion. People with health insurance are more likely to report use of prescription drugs, so increased access to prescription drugs under the Affordable Care Act would be expected to increase use.