



News Updates: February 05, 2014

Drug Pricing

Publication: The Hindu Business Line
Edition: National
Date: February 10, 2014
Headline: Drug pricing authority mooted

Synopsis: The Department of Chemicals has proposed the setting up of an independent body to be called the 'National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority' (NPPA) to fix prices. This body will be in addition to the proposed National Drug Authority (NDA). In a note to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), the department has stated that the NPPA must be set up in order to provide transparency and objectivity to the process of price fixation and is to consist of experts. The body will also be entrusted with the task of updating the list of drugs under price control each year on the basis of the criteria established

Publication: Financial Chronicle
Edition: National (Reproduced from Reuters)
Date: February 5, 2014
Headline: [Ten rivals join with NIH to search for new drugs – WSJ](#)

Synopsis: Ten big rival drug companies have formed a pact to cooperate on a government-backed effort to accelerate the discovery of new drugs, the Wall Street Journal reported. The companies and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) will share scientists, tissue and blood samples, and data, to identify targets for new drugs for diseases such as Alzheimer's, Type 2 diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis and lupus, the Journal said. The collaboration, called the Accelerating Medicines Partnership, will cost about \$230 million and involves drugmakers such as Bristol-Myers Squibb Co, Johnson & Johnson, GlaxoSmithKline, Takeda Pharmaceuticals and Sanofi. The agreement prohibits participants from using any discovery for their own drug development until the project makes data public on that discovery. The NIH, GlaxoSmithKline, Bristol-Myers, Sanofi, Takeda, and Johnson & Johnson could not be immediately reached for comments by Reuters.

Also in [The Financial Express](#)

FDI

Publication: The Economic Times
Edition: New Delhi
Date: February 05, 2014
Headline: [Forcing non-compete clause an irritant in pharma FDI: Rajiv Malik, president, Mylan](#)

Synopsis: Mylan, a US headquartered generic giant with \$6.8 billion sales, has been aggressively investing in India, making a series of acquisitions in the last two years, a period during which the US drug regulator has intensified its vigilance here raising quality alarms at many plants. Rajiv Malik, president of Mylan, explains that the industry would emerge stronger after the initial pain.

Publication: Pharmabiz
Edition: Online
Date: February 05, 2014
Headline: [Parliamentary panel asks DoP to work on action plan to curb import of raw materials](#)

Synopsis: A Parliamentary panel has asked the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) to formulate a time-bound action plan to restrict the import of raw materials for drug manufacturing and consider options to allow import only under "extreme circumstances".

In a recent report, the Parliamentary Standing Committee attached to the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers also expressed displeasure on the DoP for not addressing the issue of import of raw materials, despite the earlier recommendation by the panel in this regard.

“The Committee notes that the Department is conveniently silent over the issue concerning import of raw material for production of medicine. Since imported raw material would necessarily contribute to the cost component of the medicine which is ultimately passed on to the common consumers, it is but imperative that the import of raw material for production of medicine is resorted to only under extreme circumstances,” the report said.

Publication: The Indian Express

Edition: National

Date: February 05, 2014

Headline: [Post Ranbaxy turmoil, USFDA chief to visit India](#)

Synopsis: US drug regulator Margaret Hamburg is flying into India next week to meet government officials, just weeks after imposing a ban on the fourth plant of Ranbaxy Laboratories from exporting drugs and raw ingredients to the US market citing lack of “good manufacturing practices”.

The US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) commissioner will meet health minister Ghulam Nabi Azad and commerce and industry minister Anand Sharma, a senior official in the know told The Indian Express. While Indian officials said that all issues, ranging from the often-unilateral visit by the US regulator on Indian drug manufacturers and denial of access of certain Indian fruits to the US market, will be discussed, the latter was reticent about the agenda for the visit.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online (Reproduced from PTI)

Date: February 4, 2014

Headline: [Elder Pharma to strengthen nutraceuticals; to enter new areas](#)

Synopsis: Elder Pharmaceuticals today said post its Rs 2,004-crore deal with Torrent Pharmaceutical, the firm plans to strengthen existing brands and aggressively tap the growing nutraceutical segment by launching more products. In December last year, Ahmedabad's Torrent acquired the branded formulation business of the Mumbai-based drugmaker in India and Nepal for Rs 2,000 crore to boost its presence in segments such as women's healthcare and pain management.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online (Reproduced from AFP)

Date: February 5, 2014

Headline: [Swiss pharma giant Novartis slashes chairman pay: Report](#)

Synopsis: Swiss pharmaceutical giant NovartisBSE 0.52 % is preparing to slash the pay of its chairman and board, following a push in Switzerland to rein in the bonuses of top executives, according to a report published Tuesday. The company is planning a 21-percent cut in the pay of its board members, while new chairman Joerg Reinhardt is set to receive less than a third of the salary his predecessor pulled in during his last full year on the job.

General Industry News

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: New Delhi

Date: February 5, 2014

Headline: [90% of people in need of palliative care don't get it: Report](#)

Synopsis: Globally, nine out of ten persons who need palliative care or medical care to relieve pain, symptoms

and stress of serious illness don't get it. A majority of these live in low and middle income countries, a recently released report has revealed. Every year, about 20 million people across the world are estimated to require palliative care at the end of life. The majority (69%) are over 60 years of age and about 6% are children. About 78% of adults in need of palliative care at the end of life live in low and middle-income countries. The estimated number of children in need of palliative care at the end of life is almost 1.2 million. The vast majority (98%) of them live in low and middleincome countries, and within this, 83% are in the lower income groups.

Publication: The Indian Express

Edition: Online

Date: February 04, 2014

Headline: [CCI warns chemists against unfair practice](#)

Synopsis: After penalising several chemist associations for anti-competitive activities, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) has warned them to desist from indulging in unfair practices such as restricting discounts or fixation of trade margins at different levels of sale. These activities, the competition watchdog said, can lead to severe penalties and even prosecution.

The CII has listed out various possible unfair practices in the pharma sector such as , "issuance of no-objection certificate or letter of consent by such associations for opening chemist shop/being appointed stockists/distributor/wholeseller; compulsory payment of product information service charges by pharmaceutical firms to associations for release of new drug or formulation; issuance of boycott calls by the associations to their members against any enterprise for not following the instructions of associations".

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: February 5, 2014

Headline: [Apollo Munich, Canara Bank offer plan for diabetic patients](#)

Synopsis: Apollo Munich Health Insurance has entered into an association with state-run Canara Bank to offer a plan that covers people suffering from Type II diabetes.

Under the pact, the private health insurer will offer the plan, 'Energy', to customers of the public sector lender.

"We are proud to be able to offer a first-of-its-kind solution to the millions suffering from diabetes in India.

"Energy" will now be available for Canara Bank customers, as their banking channels will ensure deeper penetration of this much-needed insurance product," Apollo Munich Health Insurance Chief Executive Officer Antony Jacob said in a release here.

Canara Bank customers, who buy the plan, will have access to the vast network of Apollo Munich's hospitals and clinics for pre-policy check up, wellness tests and treatment.

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: National

Date: February 5, 2014

Headline: [Shun political differences, pass law on opioids for patients: Doctors](#)

Synopsis: The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances NDPS (Amendment) Bill, 2011 aimed at ensuring the availability of essential narcotic drugs for medicinal use for patients in need is pending in Parliament since the budget session last year. Doctors across the country involved in palliative care have urged parties to set aside their differences to pass this "entirely non-political bill" for the sake of millions suffering from unbearable pain due to lack of access to medicines made from narcotics substances.