



**News Updates: January 15, 2014**

### Drug Pricing

**Publication: The Economic Times**

**Edition: National**

**Date: January 15, 2014**

**Journalist: Soma Das**

**Headline: [NPPA to keep time-release medicines under price control](#)**

**Synopsis:** India's drug price regulator has decided to ignore the health ministry's suggestion and stick to its plan of keeping essential time-release drugs under price control. The National Pharma Pricing Authority (NPPA) had originally included this set of drugs while fixing price caps last year, implying they fell under the price net. But the ministry last month told the authority that time-release set of drugs should be kept out of the essential drugs' list, meaning they could be excluded from the price net, an advice the regulator has chosen to turn down.

**Publication: Business Standard**

**Edition: National**

**Date: January 15, 2014**

**Journalist: Ujjval Jauhari and Puneet Wadhwa**

**Headline: [Volume growth in pharma space rebounds in December](#)**

**Synopsis:** After dipping 3.3% and 6.3% y-o-y in September and October in the back of New Pharma Pricing Policy (NPPP) implementation, the overall volume growth in the pharmaceutical space has started to rebound. Post a 2.5% y-o-y growth in volumes posted during November'13, the overall volume growth at 4.1% does provide some respite. The respite also comes from the fact that sales from stockist to retailers for the India Pharma Market (IPM) increased to 8.2% year-on-year (from 6.9% in November 2013) analysts at Nomura suggest. This also indicates that the impasse over NLEM that has been keeping domestic sales of most pharma companies under check is being sorted out.

**Publication: Daily News and Analysis**

**Edition: National**

**Date: January 15, 2014**

**Journalist: Dinesh Sharma**

**Headline: [Bitter pill for the ailing](#)**

**Synopsis:** Medicines or drugs are perhaps the only commercially available set of products that consumers buy on someone else's advice. The presence of a middleman between the producer and the consumer makes drugs a unique product category. While consumers or patients are end users of medicines, they have little role to play in the crucial product purchase decision. The prescriber or the middleman thus becomes a critical part of the drug marketing chain. The prescriber could be a doctor, a nurse, a paramedic or practitioner of any system of medicine. As far as drug companies are concerned, doctors or prescribers are their 'consumers' even though they don't buy the medicine or consume it. Therefore, all drug marketing efforts are directed at doctors or prescribers. In the classical marketing narrative, this arrangement makes perfect sense. However, in reality this harmless sounding marketing chain has given rise to serious ethical concerns which put consumer or patient interests in peril.

### Patents / Intellectual Property Rights / Compulsory Drug Licensing

**Publication: The Financial Express**

**Edition:** National *(Reproduced from Reuters)*

**Date:** January 15, 2014

**Headline:** [Major pharma firms eye Pfizer's generic business](#)

**Synopsis:** Drugmakers Valeant Pharmaceuticals International, Actavis and Mylan have all expressed interest in buying Pfizer's branded generics business, but no active discussions are going on at this time, according to three people close to the matter. The "established products" unit, which makes off-patent drugs, had global sales of \$7 billion in the first nine months of 2013, accounting for 18% of Pfizer's revenue. Pfizer said in July it planned to separate its commercial operations into three units — two mainly for patent-protected brands and the third for generics. According to the people close to the matter, Pfizer is aware of each of the companies' interest but is not yet ready to entertain a deal as it prepares the groundwork for a potential separation of the generics business. It has said the review could take three years. Pfizer, Valeant, Actavis and Mylan all declined to comment. All the sources asked not to be named because they were not authorised to speak with the media.

**Publication:** Reuters

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** January 15, 2014

**Headline:** [Exclusive: Valeant, Actavis, Mylan eye Pfizer's generics unit](#)

**Synopsis:** Drugmakers Valeant Pharmaceuticals International Inc (VRX.TO), Actavis Plc (ACT.N) and Mylan Inc (MYL.O) have all expressed interest in buying Pfizer Inc's (PFE.N) branded generics business, but no active discussions are going on at this time, according to three people close to the matter. The "established products" unit, which makes off-patent drugs, had global sales of \$7 billion in the first nine months of 2013, accounting for 18 percent of Pfizer's revenue. Pfizer said in July it planned to separate its commercial operations into three units -- two mainly for patent-protected brands and the third for generics. According to the people close to the matter, Pfizer is aware of each of the companies' interest but is not yet ready to entertain a deal as it prepares the groundwork for a potential separation of the generics business. It has said the review could take three years.

**Publication:** Reuters

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** January 15, 2014

**Headline:** [Teva did not infringe OxyContin patents, shares rise](#)

**Synopsis:** A federal judge said Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd did not infringe five patents related to the painkiller OxyContin, helping push shares of the world's largest generic drug manufacturer up 6.7 percent on Tuesday. Earlier in the day, Teva executives said at a JPMorgan healthcare conference that they were confident a new version of its multiple sclerosis drug Copaxone that requires less frequent dosing will soon win regulatory approval for use in the United States. In a 115-page decision in the patent case, U.S. District Judge Sidney Stein rejected arguments by OxyContin manufacturer Purdue Pharma Inc that Teva infringed its patents by seeking U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval to sell generic equivalents of the drug.

## FDI

**Publication:** The New Indian Express

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** January 15, 2014

**Headline:** [National Chemists' Meet Demands Rollback of FDI in Pharma Retail](#)

**Synopsis:** The annual convention of All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists held here has demanded that the Central Government enforce strict price control regulations on drugs for fatal diseases such as cancer and kidney ailments. The two-day convention, which concluded here the other day was inaugurated by Excise and Ports Minister K Babu. The convention was attended by over 300 delegates from across the country. The Centre's new policies with regard to the pharmacology sector, and their

impact were discussed at the meet. The convention examined the effectiveness of the prevalent Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1945 and stated that it needs to be amended and relaxations are to be made in areas pertaining to retail sale of essential drugs.

#### Clinical Trials

**Publication:** Pharmabiz

**Edition:** Online

**Date:** January 15, 2014

**Headline:** [DCGI issues draft guidelines on audio-visual recording of informed consent process in clinical trial](#)

**Synopsis:** The drug controller general of India (DCGI) has issued draft guidelines on audio-visual recording of informed consent process in clinical trials in the country. As per the guidelines, before requesting an individual's consent to participate in clinical trial, the investigator must provide the individual with the all the information in a language that is non-technical and understandable by the study subjects and the same shall be recorded through audio-visual means. If a subject is not able to give informed consent (e.g. an unconscious person or a minor or those suffering from severe mental illness or disability) the information should be provided to the legally acceptable representative (LAR). If the subject or his/her legally acceptable representative is unable to read/write – an impartial witness (IW) should be present during the entire informed consent process.

#### FDA / Drug Regulatory / DCGI / Pharma Policy

**Publication:** The Times of India

**Edition:** National (*Reproduced from PTI*)

**Date:** January 15, 2014

**Headline:** [Ranbaxy extends loss, down over 2% on FDA concerns](#)

**Synopsis:** Extending Monday's steep fall, shares of Ranbaxy Laboratories on Tuesday fell by over 2 per cent after the USFDA raised concerns about manufacturing practices at the pharmaceutical firm's Toansa plant in Punjab. Despite making a positive opening, shares of Ranbaxy Lab failed to sustain the momentum and fell by 2.13 per cent to Rs 429 on the BSE. On the NSE, the stock lost 2.31 per cent to Rs 428.65. In the previous session, the stock plunged over 5 per cent. The US Food and Drug Administration's observations regarding the manufacturing practices in the company's plant in Punjab comes after the recent inspection of the facility by the health regulator.

**Publication:** Financial Chronicle

**Edition:** National

**Date:** January 15, 2014

**Headline:** [Ranbaxy shares continue to fall on FDA concerns](#)

**Synopsis:** Gurgaon-headquartered Ranbaxy Laboratories extended Monday's steep fall as its shares plunged nearly 2 per cent on Tuesday after the US food and drug administration (FDA) raised concerns regarding the manufacturing practices at the company's facility in Punjab. On Monday, the company in a BSE filing informed that it has "received the form 483 with certain observations as a result of the recent US FDA inspection at its active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) plant at Toansa, Punjab." Following which, the stock plunged over 5 per cent. On Tuesday, despite a positive opening, the stock witnessed an intra-day fall of around 2.86 per cent when it touched Rs 424.80 on BSE before recovering to Rs 429.80, down by 1.95 per cent. On NSE, the stock lost 2.14 per cent to close the day at Rs 429.40.

#### General Industry

**Publication:** Hindustan Times

**Edition:** New Delhi

**Journalist:** Rhythma Kaul

**Date: January 15, 2014**

**Headline: Health Dept mailbox abuzz with complaints** *(no online link available)*

**Synopsis:** In case of any suggestion or complaint about the healthcare services in Delhi, people can write to [aapdelhihealth@gmail.com](mailto:aapdelhihealth@gmail.com). The mail id launch on December 28 last year has already received over 1000 mails. Despite no form publicity the flow of emails in the id has been so severe that the State Health Minister Satyendra Jain appointed a team to check and respond to every mail received. The health minister also has pledged to donate his organs to the institute of Liver and Biliary Science.

**Publication: The Financial Express**

**Edition: National**

**Date: January 15, 2014**

**Journalist: Pallavi Ali**

**Headline: [Glaxo likely to restore dealer margins to boost sales](#)**

**Synopsis:** Glaxosmithkline Pharmaceuticals (GSK) which has seen sales flag after reducing margins for wholesalers and retailers, is expected to increase them from July, 2014, sources in All India Organisation of Chemists & Druggists (AIOCD) said. A couple of other drug firms, including Torrent Pharma and Cipla have restored margins payable to wholesalers and retailers after the trade protested that margins were not attractive. GSK was earlier offering wholesalers and retailers 10% and 20% respectively, but these were lowered to 8% and 16% respectively after the Drug Prices Control Order (DPCO) was amended in May, 2013, capping the prices of 348 drugs. The rules came into effect in end-July. The company could not be reached for comment and an email sent to it remained unanswered.

**Publication: Business Standard**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: January 15, 2014**

**Headline: [New rotavirus vaccines seem safer, studies find](#)**

**Synopsis:** Newer vaccines against rotavirus, a severe diarrheal disease in children, slightly raise the risk of a rare bowel problem that doomed an earlier vaccine, new studies show. But researchers say the modern vaccines are much safer and well worth this very small risk. Rotavirus kills more than 400,000 young children a year, mostly in poor countries. In the United States, good medical care usually keeps it from being fatal, but it used to cause as many as 1 in 10 hospitalisations of young kids. The first rotavirus vaccine came out in 1998 but was withdrawn a year later after it was linked to intussusception, a rare and serious twisted bowel condition. Doctors hoped that two newer versions Merck's RotaTaq and GlaxoSmithKline's Rotarix, which came out in 2006 and 2008 would avoid that problem.

**Publication: The Indian Express**

**Edition: National (Opinion)**

**Date: January 15, 2014**

**Headline: [Because we can](#)**

**Synopsis:** India must build on the polio campaign to prioritise childhood immunisation. This week, we mark the three-year anniversary of the last case of polio virus in India. It is a monumental achievement — and arguably one of the greatest public health success stories of all time. The legacy of the polio campaign is more than just the successful eradication of the crippling disease. The systems and strategies put in place to reach every child in every part of the country with lifesaving polio vaccines can be used to save millions of children from other preventable diseases. According to Unicef, every year in India, 1.4 million children under five die from preventable diseases. Reaching every child with timely vaccination could dramatically reduce child deaths in the country. Polio shows that this can be done, if we put our minds to it.

**Publication: The Indian Express**

**Edition: National**

**Date: January 15, 2014**

**Journalist: Stuti Ullas Shukla , Tabassum Barnagarwala**

**Headline: [The 'hybrid doctor' debate](#)**

**Synopsis:** For a week, Maharashtra has been debating the implications of a cabinet decision that allows homoeopaths to prescribe allopathic drugs after taking a year-long pharmacology course. The cabinet itself was divided in its discussions leading to the decision, the medical fraternity is aghast, and even the homoeopathic fraternity is not unanimous in the conviction that it will work. Put forward by the state's medical education department, the proposal had been taken up by the cabinet as far back as in 1999 but the government then changed before it could be placed in the assembly. Following last week's cabinet clearance, Maharashtra is set to become the first state to allow such a practice. There are allegations about the objective being politically motivated. The state has 46 homoeopathy colleges, all private, and many of these are owned by current and former MLAs and ministers. Sources say an NCP minister's family runs a college in Marathwada and a Congress minister of state's family runs one in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region.

**Publication: Deccan Herald**

**Edition: National**

**Date: January 15, 2014**

**Headline: [India's fight against TB undermined by chronic undernourishment](#)**

**Synopsis:** Nowadays when Tarsil Orao (50) wakes up in his little hut in a village near Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh, he does not reach out for a customary morning cup of tea. The cost of tea leaves, sugar, milk and fuel is more than his household can absorb on the meagre income he earns as a casual agriculture labourer. The people featured here, and several more that are not for lack of space, are victims of chronic hunger. Their underweight and under-nourished status bears testimony to the fact that with spiraling inflation and limited livelihood options, the quality of their diets has shrunk down the years. The figures speak. As per a report published by Bloomberg, entitled 'Early death assured in India where 900 million don't eat enough', "...rural Indians have seen their intake slide to 2,020 calories in 2010, from a high of 2,266 calories in 1973. A National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau study in nine states that make up the majority of India's malnourished population showed a steeper decline, with average rural calorie counts falling to about 1,900 in 2005 from 2,340 in 1979. Daily protein intake dropped to 49 grams (1.5 ounces) from 63 grams. The global average is 77 grams, according to the UN's Food and Agricultural Organization. The worldwide average daily caloric intake is about 2,800 calories a da

**Publication: Pharmabiz**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: January 15, 2014**

**Headline: [Health ministry launches indigenously developed diabetes screening system and test strips](#)**

**Synopsis:** The Union health ministry has launched the indigenously developed diabetes screening system and test strips. The indigenous product developed by Birla Institute of Technology, Hyderabad and IIT, Mumbai will be manufactured by Biosense Technologies. Launching the new technologies, union minister for health and family welfare, Ghulam Nabi Azad said that indigenously developed screening system and strips will significantly lower costs and thereby dramatically increase accessibility and equity in terms of diagnosis and control of diabetes and have a tremendous socio-economic impact throughout the country. Today's launch will make screening for blood sugar affordable to millions by achieving our target of a price below Rs. 5, less than 20 per cent of the lowest priced strips currently available in the market, he said.

**Publication: MoneyControl**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: January 14, 2014**

**Headline: [Indian pharma to revive by Apr; see better margins: Cadila](#)**

**Synopsis:** Interview with Pankaj R Patel, chairman and managing director, Zydus Cadila Healthcare. No sector has been as badly hit by regulators' punitive measures as the Indian pharma. The year gone by saw numerous USFDA import alerts, red flags, etc on various pharma majors that led to their stocks being hammered significantly. However, the increased inspection is a positive for the industry, opines Pankaj R Patel. This, despite the fact that the company has received a warning letter from the US regulator.

**Publication:** The Times of India

**Edition:** New Delhi

**Date:** January 15, 2014

**Headline:** [Chemical pollution linked to infection, bladder cancer](#)

**Synopsis:** The unchecked discharge of chemical waste into Yamuna from industries in Haryana is threatening to wash away the gains made by Delhi over a decade after industrial units in the city were closed or relocated. Experts say the pollutants are causing water toxicity and illnesses associated with it. Gastrointestinal infections, typhoid, anemia, kidney and liver damage are some of the common health problems associated with chemical pollutants. Doctors say high levels of amine, a derivative of ammonia, is known to cause urinary bladder cancer.

**Publication:** The Times of India

**Edition:** New Delhi

**Journalist:** Anshul Dhamija & Boby Kurian

**Date:** January 15, 2014

**Headline:** Aster Healthcare plans \$200 m IPO *(no online link)*

**Synopsis:** Aster DM Healthcare, the third largest India-Based healthcare service provider, has started talk with investment banks for \$200 million (Rs 1250 Crore) initial public offering in London or in Mumbai in the next 12 months.

## Innovation

**Publication:** Financial Chronicle

**Edition:** New Delhi

**Journalist:** Ritwik Mukherjee

**Date:** January 15, 2014

**Headline:** [Indian scientist discovers way to fight viruses causing cancer death](#)

**Synopsis:** Columbia University professor says research vital to cancer fight. Arnab De, an Indian scientist at the department of microbiology and immunology, Columbia University, has now developed new animal models to potentially study cancer and has discovered a new biological pathway that is essential to be able to defend against bacteria and viruses, and defects in the biological pathway that leads to cancer death. That's not all. In a rare gesture, the young scientist has dedicated his Ivy League PhD to Indian cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar, who has recently retired from international cricket. This incidentally is the first PhD to be dedicated to any sportsman.

**Publication:** Mail Today

**Edition:** New Delhi

**Journalist:** Neetu Chandra

**Date:** January 15, 2014

**Headline:** [New technology comes to the rescue of India's infertile men](#)

**Synopsis:** Move over Vicky Donor - the world has just become a kinder place for infertile men. A new technique is making fathers out of men clinically classified as having a zero sperm count. The technique is called Micro-TESE and can be used to extract viable sperm cells from men suffering from azoospermia, the

absence or near absence of sperm cells in a man's semen. Almost a third of Indian men have fertility problems, and a significant 20 per cent of them are azoospermic. Sanjeev Chopra (name changed), a software professional from Gurgaon, is a classic example. The 39-year old slipped into depression when he discovered that he was responsible for his wife's inability to conceive. Chopra found it difficult to discuss his fertility, and convinced himself that there was no possibility of fatherhood. It was then that he got to know Micro-TESE (micro-surgical testicular sperm extraction)