



News Updates: January 7, 2014

Drug Pricing

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Journalist: Unnikrishnan S. & C.H. Unnikrishnan

Date: January 7, 2014

Headline: [No end to stand-off between drug makers, trade association](#)

Synopsis: In spite of a 9 December order by India's antitrust regulator asking the pharmaceutical trade lobby group to stop monopolistic practices that affect the supply of essential medicines, the stand-off between drug makers and the trade association continues to cripple the supply of life-saving medicines. The trade lobby, led by All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists (AIOCD), which controls about 700,000 chemists in India, is planning to boycott an additional 30-40 drug firms from supplying products to the retail market, after forcing at least a dozen drug makers, including GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Cadila Healthcare Ltd, Lupin Ltd and Pfizer Ltd, to raise the trade margin in the past six-seven months, according to the pharma industry.

Clinical Trials

Publication: The Times of India

Edition: Mumbai

Date: January 7, 2014

Headline: [Conference on the importance of clinical research](#)

Synopsis: Research at Crossroads, a theme reflective of the increasing challenges being faced by the clinical research fraternity across the stakeholder spectrum, is the focus of the 7th annual conference being held by the Indian Society for Clinical Research in Bangalore on January 10-11. The event will see leading clinical research experts from academia, healthcare institutions and the industry deliberate on the state of clinical research in India. Clinical pharmacologist Ranjit Roy Chaudhary will be guest of honour at the event. Over the two days clinical research professionals will lead discussions on various aspects of clinical research including the regulatory environment and compensation, accreditation, emerging opportunities in clinical research and the challenges and opportunities for stakeholders.

FDA / Drug Regulatory / DCGI / Pharma Policy

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: January 6, 2014

Headline: [FDA alerts drive quality requirements upwards in pharma industry: Albert Stevens, IMCD Group](#)

Synopsis: In this interview, Albert Stevens, VP Asia, IMCD Group, one of the leading global distributors of speciality chemicals, considers India to be one of the key growth drivers in Asia for the group. The Euro 1.3-billion Dutch company, IMCD Group BV, is one of the leading distributors of speciality chemicals, representing major global producers and offering solutions for customers' problems utilising its comprehensive and complementary product portfolio. IMCD is a Dutch company specialising in distribution of specialty chemicals to end-user industries such as pharmaceuticals, plastics, coatings, food, nutrition, etc. We represent principals and market their products to these sectors.

Publication: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: January 7, 2014

Headline: [DCGI to take up matter of barcoding for primary packaging with Commerce Min](#)

Synopsis: The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) will take up with the Commerce Ministry the issue of barcoding for primary level packaging of pharmaceutical products which, the industry felt, would be virtually impossible for small products. DCGI Dr G N Singh, in a recent interaction with the industry leaders, said he would along with the Pharmexcil take up the matter with the Commerce Ministry and the concerned group of ministers. He also asked the industry leaders to give a detailed representation in this regard so that he can convince with the Health Ministry also.

Publication: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: January 7, 2014

Headline: [Industry expresses concern over proposed regulation on phytopharmaceutical drugs](#)

Synopsis: The phytopharmaceutical industry in the country has asked the union health ministry to take into consideration its concerns before amending the Drugs and Cosmetics (D&C) Rules to insert separate definition for phytopharmaceutical drugs and also for its inclusion in the definition of new drug. The country has rich heritage of numerous phytopharmaceutical drugs and one of the significant exports from India is herbal extracts. A number of Indian manufacturers manufacture and export herbal extracts under the ambit of phytopharmaceutical drugs which are now sought to be brought under the proposed draft rules. The proposed rules require data to be submitted along with the application at par with the 'chemical drugs'. But the industry rues that the data required is exhaustive which may not be available for the ancient ayurvedic or herbal extracts products.

General Industry

Publication: Mail Today (Report attached)

Edition: New Delhi

Journalist: Nalini Ravichandran

Page: 22,23

Date: January 7, 2014

Headline: [IT'S ALL IN THE GENES](#)

Synopsis: WANT to check out whether your child would turn out to be a sports prodigy? Or, your chances of developing heart disease? It is easy; just 10 ml of your spittle sent to the nearest genetic test centre can reveal your entire DNA make-up and the health conditions awaiting you. Wouldn't you just want to know? The field of genomics (study of genomes) is picking up in the country after an almost 6 year stint in the West. The idea of getting one's health horoscope has indeed caught up with many. With increased levels of health consciousness, many of us are indeed in anticipation of what lies ahead. And if we could prevent it, what better than that? Cashing in on preventive care, an increasing number of private companies are offering to read people's DNA and provide insight on their health. Genetic profile of each person varies and it can help find if you are predisposed to cancer, obesity, diabetes, or any other medical condition.

Publication: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: January 7, 2014

Headline: [IDMA celebrates 52nd annual day in Mumbai](#)

Synopsis: With the global regulatory environment evolving, there is an increasing level of awareness being generated in terms of compliance with reference to clinical trials and Good Manufacturing Practices in India. Besides this, there is a greater focus by the government on making healthcare accessible through schemes like Jan Aushadhi, said Anuradha Johri, secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals. She was speaking during the 52nd Annual Celebrations of Indian Drug Manufacturers Association (IDMA) in Mumbai on January 4. She suggested that capacity building needs to be done through upgrading Research and Development and enforcing compliance at the local level through a robust and reliable regulatory

mechanism.

Publication: Moneylife

Edition: Online

Date: January 7, 2014

Headline: [Medical scare system increasing illness in society](#)

Synopsis: The heart surgery programme in the US alone is a \$100 million business! They thrive on panic mongering. There is compelling evidence that more health care and more aggressive treatment across the complete spectrum of illnesses is not necessarily better. Our greatest achievement in modern medicine has been our success in making the many people mortally terrified of diseases and death. For instance, Hypochondriasis has gone up exponentially since modern hi-tech medicine learnt the “art” of advertising both the morbid side of illnesses and our capacity to “drag people even from the jaws of death”! In short, we have transformed the medical profession—a healthy union of the sick and the saviour in mutual trust—into a big business. This has exposed us to the vagaries of consumer society of fault-finding and lawsuits for negligence. Just read this letter from a friend of mine to find out how fear mongering goes on daily!

Publication: The New Indian Express

Edition: Online

Date: January 6, 2014

Headline: [Pharma Companies Likely to Post 15% Profit Growth in Q3](#)

Synopsis: Indian pharma companies are expected to register a growth of over 15 per cent y-o-y for the quarter ended December, 2013, according to Kotak Institutional Equities. Companies such as Sun Pharma and Dr Reddy’s will lead the sector, while Lupin, Cipla and Glenmark are expected to witness growth in the US generics. A gradual recovery is expected for Cadila and Cipla, it said, adding that it does not factor in improvement in operational performance for the current quarter.

Publication: The New Indian Express

Edition: Online

Date: January 6, 2014

Headline: [Gujarat Behind National Average in Fall in Maternal Mortality Rate](#)

Synopsis: Gujarat has done a little worse than the national average when it comes to achieving decline in the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) and Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR), according to the Union Health Ministry. TFR, which signifies the number of children born per woman, fell from 2.8 in 2005 to 2.4 in 2011 in the state, as per the Sample Registration System (SRS) data. The national decline in TFR in this period was 17.2 per cent, from 2.9 in 2005 to 2.4 in 2011. The state registered 23.75 per cent decline in Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) -- the number of maternal deaths per lakh live births. Between 2004-06, the MMR was 160, while the same during 2010-12 was 122. The national decline, during the same period, was 29.9 per cent.

Vaccine

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Ahmedabad

Date: January 7, 2014

Headline: [Zydus Cadila likely to launch pentavalent vaccine in 2015](#)

Synopsis: Ahmedabad-based pharmaceutical major Cadila Healthcare (Zydus Cadila) is expecting to launch its pentavalent vaccine aimed at treating five life-threatening diseases in children, by 2015. The vaccine is currently under clinical trial phase, post which data would be submitted to the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) for approval. Pankaj Patel, chairman and managing director of Zydus Cadila said, "We expect to launch the pentavalent vaccine in 2015. Currently clinical trials are on, and afterwards, the data would be

submitted to DCGI for approval. The launch would depend on how soon the approvals are received." He added that the company is also close to launching a vaccine for the human papilloma virus (HPV) which causes cervical cancer in women. "The HPV vaccine is likely to be launched around the same time. The pentavalent vaccine, however, could come first," he said.

Innovation/Access/Affordability

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: National

Date: January 7, 2014

Headline: [Finally, a pharmacy for free medicines at AIIMS](#)

Synopsis: Pending for nearly two years, AIIMS mission to provide free of cost generic medicines to its patients visiting the OPD may finally see the light of the day when such a pharmacy starts functioning by this month-end. "The pharmacy was supposed to start on January 1 but it got a bit delayed as we were arranging the place where the store will come up. Patients who are treated in the OPDs will be given free medicines on the basis of prescriptions by doctors of the hospital," Medical Superintendent D. K. Sharma said. The store will be run by the Central Government's HLL Lifecare Limited and will be set up in the place where the earlier private pharmacy was being run and was closed in November 2013 due to irregularities.

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: Kochi

Date: January 7, 2014

Headline: [Provide life-saving drugs at reduced price, says forum](#)

Synopsis: The maximum retail prices were often being manoeuvred and fixed at far higher than what should be the reasonable price: Ernakulam Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum A consumer forum in Kochi has directed the Kerala State government to take adequate steps to make available life-saving drugs at reduced prices at its hospitals and Neethi medical shops. The Ernakulam Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum issued the directive on a petition filed by Benny Joseph, general convener, Janapaksham. According to him, his organisation had taken care of the cancer treatment of a person called Rosa Varghese. The petitioner said the hospital where she was undergoing treatment had charged Rs. 6200 for a vial of zoledronic acid in 2009. When approached, a medical shop owner gave him the same medicine at Rs.1,400. The petitioner alleged that the hospital and the manufacturer of the medicine were adopting unfair and restrictive trade practice by limiting the sale of the drug.

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: National

Journalist: G. Balachandar

Date: January 7, 2014

Headline: [Health insurance segment clocks double digit growth](#)

Synopsis: The health insurance segment in the country continues to show robust growth with increasing penetration levels. Total premium has seen a growth of 17 per cent in 2012-13 when compared with the previous fiscal. The total health insurance premium collected by non-life insurers in 2012-13 stood at Rs 15,701 crore when compared with Rs 13,469 crore in 2011-12. The high growth in the health insurance premium has largely been demand-driven so far. The health premium underwritten by non-life insurers (excluding standalone health insurers) in 2012-13 stood at Rs 13,975 crore as against Rs 11,777 crore in the previous year.