



News Updates: July 15, 2014

OPPI

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: July 15, 2014

Headline: [More drug price caps soon](#)

Synopsis: The government is scrutinising prices of vaccines and drugs used to treat cancer, viral infections, asthma, tuberculosis and malaria after having slashed prices of expensive anti-diabetic and cardiovascular medicines. The regulator last week capped the prices of 108 formulation packs of 50 anti-diabetic and cardiovascular medicines. Selling prices of some of them were cut by up to 35 per cent. An official source said the price cuts for anti-cancer and anti-retroviral drugs could be steeper because profit margins were higher in these medicines.

The drug sector has opposed the move. "The NPPA's notification goes beyond the mandate of DPCO 2013, which addresses pharmaceutical pricing based on the 'essentiality' criteria and clearly states the 'intention of the policy is to bring the essential medicines under price control and not to control the Indian pharmaceutical sector," **said Shailesh Ayyangar, president of the Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India.**

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: July 15, 2014

Headline: [More drugs brought under price control](#)

Synopsis: The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has decided to fix the prices of 50 anti-diabetic and cardiac medicines. While the move will help consumers, it will erode the margins of pharmaceutical companies. The reduction will range from 10-35 per cent. In a notification dated July 10, the NPPA said it has "fixed the prices of anti-diabetic and cardiovascular drugs in respect of 108 non-scheduled formulation packs".

Shailesh Ayyangar, President, Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India, said the move "will be detrimental to the investment climate for market expansion, brand building and employment generation".

Publication: Hindustan Times

Edition: National

Date: July 15, 2014

Headline: [Relief for patients: diabetes cardiac care drugs to cost less](#)

Synopsis: The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has fixed lower prices for 108 drugs used for treating diabetic and cardiovascular diseases. While the move will bring down prices of formulations including atorvastatin, gliclazide, glimepiride, heparin and metolazone among others by up to 35%, it is likely to hit profit margins of drug majors such as Sanofi, Abbott and Ranbaxy.

NPPA's notification extends beyond the mandate of DPCO 2013, which clearly states the "intention of the policy is to bring the essential medicines under price control and not to control the Indian pharma industry," **said Shailesh Ayyangar, president, Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India.**

Publication: The Financial Express

Edition: National

Date: July 15, 2014

Headline: [NPPA caps prices of 108 diabetes, cardiac drugs](#)

Synopsis: The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), an agency that determines the prices of medicines, has capped the prices of over 100 drugs used to treat diabetes and cardiovascular disorders. While the NPPA's move is good news for patients, pharmaceutical companies are upset with this development. Another industry body, **Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI)** said in a statement issued on Monday that NPPA's decision was contrary to its earlier stated intention of working on close consultation with the industry and assurance of avoiding price volatility.

"However, NPPA's arbitrary and unilateral action runs contrary to all these sentiments. It has shocked the industry and will be detrimental to the investment climate for market expansion, brand building and employment generation in the future," **OPPI's statement said.**

Publication: Deccan Chronicle

Edition: National

Date: July 15, 2014

Headline: [108 medicines to get cheaper by 35%](#)

Synopsis: In a major relief to people suffering from diabetes and cardiac-related problems, the prices of widely used anti-diabetic and cardio-vascular medicines would come down by 10 per cent to 35 per cent as the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has decided to bring 108 formulation packs of such medicines under the price control regime. The move assumes significance since the medicines, which were brought under the price control mechanism, were not earlier listed under the national list of essential medicines (NLEM).

Dr Shailesh Ayyanger, president, organisation of pharmaceutical producers of India (OPPI) said that the pharmaceutical industry wants stability and predictability in the regulatory environment.

Publication: The Asian Age

Edition: National

Date: July 15, 2014

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"However, NPPA's arbitrary and unilateral action runs contrary to all these sentiments. It has shocked the industry and will be detrimental to the investment climate for market expansion, brand building and employment generation in the future," he added.

NPPA issue

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: July 15, 2014

Headline: [Pharma cos fume at price control order](#)

Synopsis: The drug price regulator's move to control the prices of more commonly used diabetes and heart disease medicines has made pharmaceutical companies furious, as they fear it would wipe out their margins just when they seemed to recover from the previous government's decision to slash the prices of more than 300 drugs. On Friday, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) slashed the prices of 108 brands under a provision of the Drug Pricing Control Order that allows the government to fix the maximum retail

price of any drug under extraordinary circumstances. The NPPA has identified more drugs used in the treatment of cancer, HIV and AIDS, TB, malaria, cardiovascular diseases, diabetics and asthma as well as vaccines for possible price controls.

Similar reports:

The Economic Times – [Prices of 108 diabetes, cardiac formulations fixed: NPPA](#)

DNA - [Pharma cos face Rs. 570 cr hot on fresh price cap](#)

Business World - [Pharma Cos To Take A Hit As Govt Caps 108 Drug Prices](#)

PharmaBiz - [Price to retailer' only basis for deciding ceiling price of a drug under DPCO: DoP](#)

The Hindu – [Pharma producers perturbed by expanded essential medicines list](#)

Financial Chronicle – [Prices capped for 108 drugs, MNC firms hit](#)

Mint: [Pharma stocks stink on price cap ruling; top drug makers stare at losses](#)

The Week: [India caps prices of 108 more medicines](#)

Reuters: [UPDATE 1-India caps price of 108 more medicines; drugmakers to take hit](#)

Wall Street Journal: [India Imposes Price Controls on Diabetes and Heart-Disease Drugs](#)

Moneycontrol.com: [NPPA adding more drugs a retrograde step: Lupin](#)

Firstpost: [India cuts prices of more than 100 medicines; drugmakers to take a hit](#)

VC Circle: [Indian drug regulator puts price ceiling on 108 diabetes, cardiac formulations](#)

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: July 15, 2014

Headline: [Sanofi India shares tank over 10% on price control order](#)

Synopsis: Shares of pharma firm Sanofi India plunged over 10 per cent today after drug pricing regulator National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) fixed the price of medicines that are used to treat diabetes and cardiac disorders. Sanofi India's stock tanked 10.22 per cent to settle at Rs 2,900. In intra-day trade, the scrip plunged 10.99 per cent to Rs 2,875. At the NSE, the stock settled 10.49 per cent lower at Rs 2,913.

Similar reports in:

Business Standard: [Sanofi India tumbles on price control announcement](#)

The Hindu Business Line: [Sanofi India plummets on price control announcement](#)

Publication: Mint

Edition: Online

Date: July 15, 2014

Headline: [NPPA prescribes bitter pill for drug companies](#)

Synopsis: Where is the pro-business government that the country thought it had elected? If the budget had surprises galore—such as retaining the dreaded retrospective tax provision—the government has now taken a step that would make the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) proud. If you missed the bitter pill in the budget, that was because it was hidden in the country's drug pricing body—the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA).

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: July 15, 2014

Headline: *NPPA's move to bring more drugs under price control will have a negative impact on us (scan attached)*

Synopsis: Pharmaceutical stocks fell on Monday, after the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) brought more drugs under price control, cutting their prices. S. Ramesh, president, finance and planning at drug maker Lupin Ltd called the move a retrograde step, adding it would be negative for the company,

without quantify its financial impact.

Modi Government/Budget

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: July 14, 2014

Headline: [Government intends to do extraordinary work in health sector: Harsh Vardhan](#)

Synopsis: Promising "extraordinary" steps in the health sector by the Modi government, Union Minister Harsh Vardhan on Sunday said a mass movement will be built for implementing various policies and programmes in the coming months. "I can say with confidence that our government under the leadership of Narendra Modi is committed to health sector in the country and intends to do extraordinary work in this field," the Health Minister said. In this regard, he called for building a "mass-movement" involving everyone in the policies and programmes so as to make India a healthy society.

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: Online

Date: July 15, 2014

Headline: [Vardhan bats for dental institute on AIIMS model](#)

Synopsis: The Centre has sought land from the Delhi Government to set up the first All-India Institute of Dental Medicine and Research in the Capital on the lines of AIIMS. Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan has written to Lieutenant-Governor Najeeb Jung seeking 20 acres in Delhi in order to set up the institute, which is aimed at providing a boost to dental services and research in the country.

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: National

Date: July 15, 2014

Headline: [Budget's swadeshi diktat puts insurers in a cleft](#)

Synopsis: The finance minister in his Budget speech had announced a composite foreign direct investment (FDI) cap of 49 per cent in the insurance sector, with full Indian management and control. This has opened a Pandora's Box for the industry, especially regarding the composition of the top management team in insurance companies. Several insurance companies have foreigners as top executives, including John Holden, chief executive of Canara HSBC OBC Life Insurance; Steve Hollow, deputy chief executive officer (CEO) of SBI General Insurance; Shah Rouf, CEO (designate) of Tata AIA Life Insurance and Taketoshi Nagaoka, managing director of Universal Sompo General Insurance (though O N Singh is the executive chairman of the company).

Blog: Tapanray.in

Edition: Online

Date: July 15, 2014

Headline: [Union Budget 2014-15: Ticks The 'Top Priority' Boxes on Healthcare](#)

Synopsis: The Union Budget 2014-15, especially for healthcare, needs to be analyzed against the backdrop of what the common patients have been going through in the healthcare space of India, over a period of time.

Drug Pricing/Drug Regulation/Clinical Trials

Publication: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: July 15, 2014

Headline: [Price to retailer' only basis for deciding ceiling price of a drug under DPCO: DoP](#)

Synopsis: The Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) has clarified to the pharmaceutical industry that the Drugs Price Control Order (DPCO) 2013 does not distinguish between sales of medicines through retailer shop or through hospital outlets while deciding the ceiling price of a particular drug. It is only the 'price to retailer', which is taken into account for calculation of ceiling price of a drug, the DoP clarified while disposing of a revision petition filed by the Mumbai-based pharma major Wockhardt Limited.

Publication: The Asian Age

Edition: Online

Date: July 15, 2014

Headline: [FDA cancelled 5000 licences in 2013-14](#)

Synopsis: The Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has cancelled licences of 5,452 pharmacies in the state in the year 2013-14, during which it carried out over 48,086 inspections. The inspections were done in view of the reduction in sale of drugs without prescription, without bill and to control the sale of Schedule H1 drugs. "The motive of conducting severe inspections has been non-compliance of regulations by the chemists. The practice of selling medicines without prescriptions is so widespread that they feel it is more of a community service than an illegal practice. Besides, absence of pharmacists while dispensing drugs and sale of restricted drugs are two other reasons," said O.S. Sadhwani, FDA joint commissioner.

Publication: The Asian Age

Edition: Online

Date: July 15, 2014

Headline: [Drug resistance a big issue: FDA](#)

Synopsis: An FDA official has said that the cancellation of licences has been based on the fact that over 65 per cent antibiotics are being dispensed without prescriptions. "Resistance against various diseases is a very serious issue due to which certain drugs are supposed to be sold on prescription. We have formulated a lot of rules which the chemists are still not complying with," said O.S. Sadhwani, joint commissioner of FDA.

Publication: Deccan Herald

Edition: National

Date: July 15, 2014

Headline: [Clinical trials for medical devices to be made mandatory](#)

Synopsis: The Central Drug Standards Control Organisation (CDSCO) has come out with an order clarifying that clinical trial for medical devices would follow the same process as obeyed in the clinical trials of new drugs and vaccines with regard to the accreditation of investigators, selection of sites and approval by the Ethics Committee. In its July 3 order, the regulator, however, recognises the fact that there is no concept of conducting phase-I clinical trial to assess the safety and tolerability of medical devices.

General Industry

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: July 15, 2014

Headline: [Mylan-Abbott deal to indirectly help Indian generics exports](#)

Synopsis: US generic drug maker Mylan Inc.'s \$5.3 billion all-stock deal to buy the branded generics business of global rival Abbott Laboratories will not have a direct impact on India even though Mylan may boost exports of generic drugs from India to developed markets. The global deal between the two US drug makers, which involves the transfer of Abbott's off-patent drug business in developed markets including Europe, Japan, Canada, Australia and New Zealand to Mylan, was announced on Monday.

Publication: The Wall Street Journal

Edition: Online

Date: July 15, 2014

Headline: [AbbVie Nears \\$54 Billion Shire Deal](#)

Synopsis: U.S. drug maker AbbVie Inc. ABBV -0.20% is close to clinching a deal to buy Dublin-based Shire SHPG +2.09% PLC for more than £31 billion (\$53.6 billion), in what would be one of the largest so-called inversion deals through which U.S. companies are seeking a lower corporate tax burden. After four days of renewed talks between the two drug makers, Shire said Monday it had received a revised offer from AbbVie of £53.20 a share over the weekend. Shire said it would be willing to recommend the deal to its shareholders subject to "satisfactory resolution of the other terms of the offer."

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: National

Date: July 15, 2014

Headline: [Conclave discusses ways to expand insurance coverage](#)

Synopsis: Reforms in the distribution of insurance products, introduction of simpler products and higher level of awareness were identified as the key tools to broaden life and non-life insurance coverage in India at FINSEC-2014, a financial sector conclave organised by the FICCI here today.

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: July 15, 2014

Headline: [Rahul Shidhaye | Policy needed to check depression](#)

Synopsis: Depression is one of the most important mental health conditions and is characterized by low mood, loss of interest or pleasure in activities that are normally pleasurable, increased fatigue, low self-esteem, diminished ability to think or concentrate, sleep and appetite disturbances, and in severe cases, suicidal behaviour. It is one of the most disabling conditions, and in India it is already one of the top five leading causes of Years Lived with Disability (a metric used to quantify and compare morbidity across populations). Depression alone accounts for around 3% of the total burden of disease in India. Most importantly, its contribution to the burden of disease has increased 50% in the last two years and is projected to increase further during the next 25 years as a consequence of epidemiological and demographic transitions in India.

Publication: Afternoon Dispatch and Courier

Edition: Mumbai

Date: July 15, 2014

Headline: *So Neglected (scan attached)*

Synopsis: Cardiovascular diseases, malaria, tuberculosis, HIV these are some of the deadliest and most commonly mapped diseases. However, there is a group of lesser known, but equally dangerous, diseases called the Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), which includes maladies such as stomach worms, elephantiasis and trachoma. While these three diseases are the most prevalent in India, NTDs in other countries also include chagas disease, leprosy, yaws, rabies and snake bites.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: July 15, 2014

Headline: [HC notice to Centre, MCI on plea against nomination of members](#)

Synopsis: The Madurai Bench of Madras High Court today ordered a notice to the central government, the Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM) and others on a plea seeking to reconsider the nomination of 42 persons as members of the CCIM, the Medical Council of India and the Central Council of Homeopathy. When the PIL came up before them for hearing, Justices M Jaichandran and Justice R Mahadevan ordered notice returnable within two weeks to the Union Health Secretary, the Secretary to the Department of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy) and the MCI among others.