



News Updates: July 17, 2014

OPPI/ NPPA issue

Publication: The Economic Times (Editorial)

Edition: National

Date: July 17, 2014

Headline: [NPPA's latest price control measure may hurt Indian pharma industry in long run](#) (Headline in print version: The Populism of Drug Price Control)

Synopsis: The action of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) bringing a variety of diabetes and cardiovascular drugs under price control is, on balance, a retrograde step and could do long-run damage to India's pharmaceutical industry and to the cause of affordable healthcare. Before the government wields heavy-handed price regulation to correct for market failures, it must explore and exhaust other possibilities. It has not, in the present case. Mere existence of market failure, in other words, is not sufficient ground for price control.

Website: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: July 17, 2014

Headline: [NPPA's recent notification extends beyond the mandate of DPCO 2013: OPPI](#)

Synopsis: The Organization of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) has demanded to the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) to take a re-look at its recent notification as it extends beyond the mandate of DPCO 2013. In a notification dated July 10, the NPPA has brought the prices of 108 non-scheduled formulations involving the anti-diabetic and cardiovascular drugs under government control under Paragraph 19 of DPCO, 2013. The NPPA's notification extends beyond the mandate of DPCO 2013, which addresses drug 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 industry, commented OPPI president Dr Shailesh Ayyangar.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: July 16, 2014

Headline: [NPPA order may not impact much, seeking legal advice: Dr Reddy's](#)

Synopsis: A recent government order bringing in some more medicines under control may not have much impact on Hyderabad-based drug maker Dr Reddy's Laboratories in terms of product pricing, according to a senior company official. The company is assessing the impact and in touch with legal professionals seeking advice, the official said. "This (the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) order) has come a little bit out of blue. We are trying to see whether it needs any action. For us it will be less material. The exposure to those products is lower and our work is in progress from impact assessment perspective," the official told PTI.

Similar reports in-

Business Standard- [NPPA order may not impact much, seeking legal advice: Reddy's](#)

The Financial Express- [Little impact of NPPA order: Dr Reddy's \(link unavailable, scan attached\)](#)

The Financial Chronicle- [NPPA order may not impact much, seeking legal advice: Reddy's](#)

The Asian Age- [Drug price control may not impact much: Reddy](#)

Daily News & Analysis- [NPPA order may not impact, seeking legal advice: Reddy's \(link unavailable, scan attached\)](#)

Moneycontrol- [Pharma cos up in arms against govt's price control move](#)

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: July 16, 2014

Headline: [Profit vs people](#)

Synopsis: Pricing of medicines is a very sensitive issue, especially in a country like India where the burden of disease is huge and affordability is a major concern. The latest move by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has once again triggered the debate on whether it is right for the government to curb profits of the industry for the sake of common man. In December 2012, when the Cabinet approved the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy (NPPP) with a market driven formula to cap prices of 348 essential medicines, the drug manufacturing industry must have thought the worst was over and probably that much was in its favour. Little would it have realized that in a country with a population of 1.22 billion, of which 30 per cent are poor, drug pricing can never cease to be an agenda for the political class, the government and hence for the policy makers.

Similar report in-

FirstPost- [Health care: How government can make essential drugs more affordable](#)

Website: Bloomberg

Edition: Online

Date: July 16, 2014

Headline: [Price Caps on \\$915 Million of Drugs Hurt Sanofi: Corporate India](#)

Synopsis: India's widening of price controls to drugs with revenues of about \$915 million adds pressure on the local units of global manufacturers to boost sales volumes.

The nation where 825 million people live on under \$2 per day capped prices of 50 diabetes and heart treatments last week, with limits possible for other medications too. Paris-based Sanofi's Indian business is worst hit based on maximum retail prices and would have lost 1.39 billion rupees (\$23.1 million) of sales in the past year under the curbs, market researcher AIOCD AWACS estimates. "Multinationals will have to go for volumes," said Sarabjit Kour Nangra, an analyst at Angel Broking Ltd. in Mumbai. "Their pricing is out of sync. Product differentiation in a market that's generic is very low." The curbs are the first on treatments outside a list of drugs deemed essential in India, where companies such as Novartis AG and Pfizer Inc. have had patents challenged as the government seeks affordability. The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority signaled on July 10 it may add caps on cancer, HIV, tuberculosis, malaria, asthma and vaccine treatments.

Similar report in-

Moneycontrol- [More price controls in India: Derogative step for pharma](#)

Website: Moneycontrol

Edition: Online

Date: July 16, 2014

Headline: [Pharma cos up in arms against govt's price control move](#)

Synopsis: The recent move by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) to cap prices of 50 cardiovascular and anti-diabetic drugs has rubbed the pharma industry the wrong way. The issue is heating up and both Indian as well as multinational drug firms have upped their ante opposing this move, reports CNBC-TV18's Archana Shukla. Sources suggest drug company chiefs have already started making their visits to Delhi. At least 3-4 have already sought meetings in the ministry to put forth their concerns as a lot of fresh questions are arising as they read deeper into the order.

Website: CNBC

Edition: Online

Date: July 16, 2014

Interview: Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, CMD, Biocon and Mr CM Gulati, Researcher at IMS Health India

Headline: [Price control debate: Is the pharma sector crying 'wolf'?](#)

Synopsis: The government has capped the prices of more than 100 drugs used to treat diseases ranging from diabetes to HIV, a move likely to hit the profit margins of drug firms such as Sanofi SA, Abbott Laboratories and Ranbaxy Laboratories. The drug pricing regulator's decision, aimed at improving affordability, was slammed by the drugmakers in India, where prices of generic drugs sold are already low compared with international markets. CNBC-TV18's Shereen Bhan spoke to Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, CMD of Biocon and Mr CM Gulati, Researcher at IMS Health India to get their perspective on how the government's new move is likely to impact the pharma industry.

Publication: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: July 17, 2014

Headline: [NPPA recovers Rs.4 crore for overcharging drugs from Gujarat based cos](#)

Synopsis: Even as Gujarat Food and Drug Control Administration (FDCA) has referred new 350 cases of overcharging drugs to National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), only Rs.4 crore have been recovered by NPPA. Around 300 small, medium and big manufacturers in the state have come under the scanner for overpricing pharma products in violation of DPCO 2013. According to officials, commonly used antibiotics which have been notified as per the DPCO order have been overpriced. Gujarat FDCA had referred the 600 cases out of 1000 such cases referred to NPPA in the previous DPCO regime of 1995.

Compulsory licensing

Publication: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: July 16, 2014

Headline: [Bombay HC upholds India's first compulsory license granted to Natco Pharma on Nexavar](#)

Synopsis: In yet another landmark decision, the Bombay High Court has upheld the compulsory license (CL) granted to Natco Pharma for manufacturing Nexavar, sending a strong message by sticking to the patent office's patient centric decision to ensure availability of affordable life saving drugs to the patients. With this decision, Natco will now be legally able to manufacture and sell the generic copy of sorafenib tosylate, a patented kidney cancer drug invented by German pharma giant Bayer, at a far more affordable price. In March 2012, changing the history of intellectual property rights in India, the Controller General of Patents Design and Trademarks, P H Kurian had granted the first-ever compulsory license to Hyderabad-based Natco Pharma to sell a generic version of Nexavar under Section 84 (1) (b) of the Patents Act, 1970. Following which Bayer approached the Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB) by challenging the order.

Clinical trials

Publication: The Hindu

Edition: National

Date: July 17, 2014

Headline: [Failure in patient safety common in U.S. clinical trials](#)

Synopsis: Failure to protect patient safety and poor record keeping were among the most common violations picked up by the US regulator in the running of clinical trials over a period of seven years, reveals a study published online in the Journal of Medical Ethics. The two Indian study authors reviewed the content of 84 first warning letters issued by the United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) following site visits to 46 trial sponsors, 20 lead researchers, and 18 institutional review boards, which assess and monitor safety, between 2005 and 2012.

Publication: Pharmabiz

Edition: Online

Date: July 17, 2014

Headline: [DCGI directs clinical trial sponsors & cos to give compensation in drug-related anomaly discerned later](#)

Synopsis: The drugs controller general of India (DCGI) has directed the clinical trial sponsors, clinical trial applicants and pharmaceutical manufacturers to provide compensation to the trial participants if any drug-related anomaly is discerned at a later stage and accepted to be drug-related injury or death. The DCGI's action in this regard is pursuant to the Union health ministry's acceptance of the recommendations of the Prof Ranjit Roy Chaudhury committee, constituted by the ministry last year to formulate policy and guidelines for approval of new drugs, clinical trials and banning of drugs.

Health Ministry/ Cancer

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: July 17, 2014

Headline: [Budget earmarks Rs 60 crore for cancer centre at Bathinda](#)

Synopsis: The state government has set aside Rs 60 crore for setting up an advanced cancer diagnostics, treatment and research centre at Bathinda, known as the cancer capital of Punjab. Finance minister Parminder Singh Dhindsa in his budget on Wednesday made fund provisions for the 100-bed cancer hospital. With high number of cancer cases in Malwa region, the diagnostics centre is expected to help patients in a big way.

Similar report in-

Business Standard- [CIMS to be upgraded, school of Public Health to come up in CG](#)

Vaccines

Publication: Moneylife

Edition: Online

Date: July 16, 2014

Headline: [Why more vaccines won't translate to better health](#)

Synopsis: When one gets an infectious disease, by and large, one gets immunity against that infection; sometimes the immunity is lifelong, but in many cases for some time after the first infection. However, the hypothesis that artificial vaccination using various laboratory methods gives complete protection against the disease seems to be based on a shaky foundation. Historically, most infectious disease deaths had fallen significantly long before any vaccination for diseases was introduced. The important changes in sanitation, water supply, good nutrition and education seem to have influenced the fall much more than vaccinations. There are now sporadic reports that recent vaccination against measles and mumps seems to have triggered an epidemic of those diseases significantly in the vaccinated group. If vaccination was such a good method of disease prevention we should have been able to eradicate many contagious disease, but alas, records show that except small pox we have not been able to eradicate any contagious disease to date. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced four new vaccination programs in the fond hope of preventing, if not eradicating some diseases. Unfortunately he has been advised wrongly and besides wasting scarce public health resources is likely to result in serious problems for the well-meaning Government.

Cancer Care Summit

Publication: Business Standard

Edition: Online

Date: July 16, 2014

Headline: [Conference on cancer diagnosis and therapy from Sep 15](#)

Synopsis: Aimed at bringing awareness in public on cancer diagnosis and therapy, a three-day 'Global Cancer Conference and Medicare Summit-2014' would be held here from September 15. The conference, with the theme 'Recent Advances in Cancer Diagnosis and Therapy', aims to create awareness among rural and urban population to get diagnosed in early stages, said Srinubabu Gedela, Managing Director of Open Access Publication Group, which is organising the event in collaboration with cancer hospitals, drug manufacturers and healthcare providers.

Similar report in-

The Hindu- [Upswing in cancer cases in A.P., T](#)

The New Indian Express- [Conference on Cancer Diagnosis from Sept 15](#)

General Industry

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: National

Date: July 17, 2014

Headline: [Flipside of health monitoring](#)

Synopsis: Google and Novartis announced a partnership to develop contact lenses that can monitor blood glucose levels. It is a tiny device with an antenna the width of a human hair, which measures glucose levels in tears and transmits the data to a smart phone. The lens corrects vision problems in the elderly, but its glucose-monitoring ability is far more revolutionary. Clinical trials will start soon after FDA approval, and the device could be in the market within five years.

Similar report in-

The Financial Express- [Novartis, Google join hands to develop 'smart lens'](#)

Publication: The Hindu Business Line

Edition: Online

Date: July 16, 2014

Headline: [Health insurers widen cover with feature-rich policies](#)

Synopsis: General insurance companies are giving a makeover to their health insurance plans by covering more than just hospitalisation expenses. General insurers have come up with comprehensive policies that will cover, besides hospitalisation reimbursement, pre-hospitalisation expenses such as out-patient department and wellness services. Further, these companies are also providing additional features in health insurance policies such as Worldwide Emergency Cover, disease- specific covers, value-added services in the form of discounts, health maintenance benefits and consultation charges for second opinion. A senior official with a public sector general insurance company said, "The idea behind launching feature-rich policies is to bridge the gap between the total cost of healthcare incurred and the amount covered by health insurance."

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: July 16, 2014

Headline: [AIDS could be wiped out by 2030: UN](#)

Synopsis: Global AIDS-related deaths and new HIV infections have fallen by over a third in a decade, raising hopes of beating the killer disease by 2030, the United Nations said Wednesday. With more than half of the 35 million people living with HIV unaware they are infected, the battle is far from over however, said Michel Sidibe, head of UNAIDS.

Similar reports in-

The Times of India- [AIDS can be brought under control by 2030: UNAIDS](#)

The Hindustan Times- [AIDS epidemic can be controlled by 2030: UN](#)

The Hindu- [Sharp fall in AIDS deaths: UN](#)

Reuters- [Global AIDS epidemic can be controlled by 2030, U.N. says](#)

The New Indian Express- [UN AIDS Report Small relief to TN, But NGOs Wary](#)

Publication: Mint

Edition: National

Date: July 17, 2014

Headline: [India falls short on UN's MDG goals](#)

Synopsis: Despite a decade of high economic growth, India tops the list of countries with the largest share of global extreme poor, according to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDG) report for 2014. It prompted minority affairs minister Najma Heptullah to admit that on key parameters like poverty, infant and maternal deaths and sanitation, the report's references to India are not flattering. Heptullah, who released the report in New Delhi, said the new Indian government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi placed high priority on improving India's record in these areas.

Similar report in-

News Today- [1/3rd of world's extreme poor in India; highest under-5 deaths](#)

Website: First Post

Edition: Online

Date: July 16, 2014

Headline: [India's missing toilets: Poor sanitation leads to malnutrition, stunted babies](#)

Synopsis: A detailed report in New York Times on Sunday revealed that even children from well-to-do Indian families are prone to malnutrition due to poor sanitation. In a first, bad sanitation has also been linked to stunting of growth among children. Stunted growth is a potentially dangerous phenomenon. Simply speaking, stunted growth is a reduced growth rate in human development but it can even lead to early death. Pathetic state of sanitation index in India has put the country behind China, Bangladesh and many African nations. The health and economic implications that a bad state of sanitation will have is abundantly clear. It is time to flush out open defecation in India.

Publication: The Economic Times

Edition: Online

Date: July 16, 2014

Headline: [Quick evaluation key to fighting TB in India: Study](#)

Synopsis: Getting patients in India quickly evaluated by the right doctors can be just as effective at curbing tuberculosis (TB) as a new, highly accurate screening test, a new study suggests. While ideally all suspected TB cases would be evaluated with the new test, it is primarily being used only on the highest-risk populations and only in public health clinics, partly because of its cost and the complexity of the nation's health care system.