



**OPPI News Update**  
**Friday, October 10, 2014**

**Supreme Court to hear case against withdrawal of drug price cap**

**Publication:** [The Economic Times](#)

The Supreme Court has agreed to hear a petition challenging a recent government circular that did away with price caps on at least 108 drugs crucial to treatment of diseases such as TB, cancer and diabetes. The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) had on September 22, 2014 withdrawn a May, 2013 circular that capped the prices of these non-essential drugs, in line with a directive from the ministry of chemicals and fertilisers.

**Similar reports in-**

**Business Standard-** [SC to hear PIL against drug price control withdrawal](#)

**Hindustan Times-** [SC to hear PIL against de-controlling drug prices](#) (*link unavailable, scan attached*)

**The New Indian Express-** [PIL Moved in SC Challenging Decontrol of Drug Prices](#)

**Deccan Herald-** [SC to hear PIL against decontrolling drug prices](#) (*link unavailable, scan attached*)

**Moneycontrol-** [PIL filed against NPPA's move to lift price curbs](#)

**NDTV-** [Decontrolling of Cardiac, Diabetes Drugs Prices Challenged in Supreme Court](#)

**SC agrees on urgent hearing of drug price plea**

**Portal:** [ABP Live](#)

The Supreme Court agreed to take up "as early as possible" a plea challenging a recent NDA government decision that is alleged to have paved the way for a sharp rise in the prices of life-saving drugs. Petitioner Manohar Lal Sharma, a lawyer, has demanded a CBI probe into a September 22 government order that he says frees a list of medicines from pricing control. His public interest plea alleges that the government acted under pressure from the pharmaceutical lobby and seeks quashing of the circular.

**PILs challenge NPPA decision on price cap**

**Publication:** [Mint](#)

Two public interest litigations (PILs) filed on Thursday in the Supreme Court and Delhi high court challenged a 22 September decision by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) to withdraw internal guideline to set prices of non-essential drugs following directions from the department of pharmaceuticals. A Supreme Court bench led by chief justice H.L. Dattu said the court will hear the PIL, filed by lawyer Manohar Lal Sharma, "as early as possible". The Delhi high court will hear the petition filed by All India Drug Action Network (AIDAN) on Wednesday.

**Decontrolling prices of cardiac, diabetes drugs challenged in SC**

**Publication:** [The Economic Times](#)

Centre's decision to decontrol prices of 108 cardiac and diabetes drugs was today challenged before the Supreme Court which agreed to hear the case "as soon as possible". The PIL alleged that hike in prices of life saving drugs is against the public interest and would lead to windfall gain to the pharmaceuticals companies at the cost of endangering lives of million of Indians. Advocate M L Sharma, who filed the petition and mentioned the case for urgent hearing, submitted that allowing pharmaceuticals companies to raise price as per their choice to secure wind fall gain involves serious corruption and also a life threat to the common general public.

**What Indian pharma can learn from the US price hike probe****Publication:** [Business Today](#)

The US Congress move to investigate the price rise in certain generic drugs by 14 companies, including those from India, has important lessons for the Indian pharmaceutical industry. Indian drug companies need to realise that they operate in price-sensitive markets - be it India or the US where the demographic of the Baby Boomer generation is witnessing record numbers signing up for MediCare and the Affordable Care Act (ObamaCare).

**Breaking News: AIDAN files PIL against NPPA decision to withdraw price control guideline****Blog:** [Spicy IP](#)

The All India Drug Action Network ("AIDAN") filed a PIL in the Delhi High Court today challenging the order dated 22.09.2014 whereby the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority ("NPPA") has, under the direction of the government, withdrawn the internal guidelines dated 29.05.2014 issued by it ("internal guidelines") for the fixation and revision of prices of drugs. The petition claims that this decision was arbitrary, irrational and mala fide and was the result of illegal browbeating by the central government at the huge benefit of pharmaceutical companies. Readers may remember this as the guideline withdrawal that led to a confusion over whether the price of Glivec had actually dropped or not. See our previous post here. Also see this related post analyzing the policy impacts of price caps.

**Modi govt only catering to the rich: Rahul****Publication:** [Business Standard](#)

Congress has made a big issue of the central government's decision, ahead of Modi's visit to the US, to withdraw powers of the drug pricing authority to cap prices of non-essential drugs, maintaining that this has led to manifold increase in prices of medicines, including life-saving ones.

**Sun, Dr Reddy's, Cadila named in US Congress price probe****Publication:** [Business Standard](#)

The US Congress seems to have gone on the offensive against 14 generic drug manufacturers, including three top Indian firms — Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, Dr Reddy's Laboratories and Cadila Healthcare — following an abnormal rise in prices of 10 generic medicines. On October 2, a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's return from America, the Congress initiated a probe and wrote to these firms, seeking details about recent hikes in prices of several generic products available in the US market.

**Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, Dr Reddy's face US action on price hikes up to 8,000%****Publication:** [Daily News & Analysis](#)

Shares of three Indian pharma companies – Cadila Healthcare, Dr Reddy's Laboratories and Sun Pharmaceutical Industries – on Wednesday fell 5% on news that the US Senate has initiated an investigation against them regarding huge spikes in prices of select generic drugs. Fourteen generic drug manufacturers, which include Actavis Plc, Mylan Inc, Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, have been notified about the investigation in the hike in prices of 10 select generic drugs in range of 334% to 8,281%. The Senate has asked drug makers to submit documents and detailed information from January 1, 2012 till present to justify the price increase. The information is to be provided by October 23.

**Govt planning incentives for health assurance mission****Publication:** [Business Standard](#)

With the government preparing to launch the flagship National Health Assurance Mission, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan today said the Finance Minister has been approached for incentives for insurances under the programme. Addressing a meeting of state health

secretaries here, he said the mission would comprise assured health packages, including essential drugs and diagnostics. Besides, tertiary healthcare is also part of the programme, which would be through various insurance mechanisms for the citizens.

**Similar report in-**

Hindustan Times- [Health insurance rollout in 6 months: Vardhan](#)

The Asian Age- [New policy to bring relief to mentally ill](#)

Business Standard – [Harsh Vardhan seeks states' suggestions on NHAM](#)

**'Promote Culture of Rational Prescription of Medicines'**

**Publication:** [The New Indian Express](#)

Union Health Minister Harshvardhan on Thursday advised the state governments to promote the culture of rational prescription of drugs among doctors. At a meet of state health secretaries, he said: "If necessary you could insert a clause on mandatory prescription of rational drugs into the contract of new doctors joining the health service."