



**News Updates: October 9, 2013**

#### OPPI

**Publication: Business Standard**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: 9.10.2013**

**Headline: [Tussle between drug maker and retailers intensifies](#)**

**Synopsis:** The tussle between drug makers on one side and retailers, distributors on the other, is getting intense even as essential medicines continue to be in short supply following the government's new price regulation. The new order aims to bring down the prices of some key medicines by up to 90 per cent. Distributors are demanding a hike in margins, while drug firms claim they are already burdened with sharp decline in prices. Many companies have alleged that traders are not accepting stocks because of squeezing trade margins under the new price control. This is in spite of firms having invested considerably in re-packagings. Now they are stuck with an inventory pileup of essential medicines.

#### Clinical Trials

**Publication: Mint**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: 9.10.2013**

**Headline: [Ministry prepares response to SC query on clinical trial](#)**

**Synopsis:** India's clinical research industry is staring at another moratorium on approvals as the health ministry prepares to justify to the country's apex court its go-ahead on 162 trials of new medicines.

In January, the Supreme Court revoked Indian drug regulator's powers to approve clinical trials due to serious irregularities in the process. In keeping with its directive, clinical trials are being approved by the health ministry after being personally vetted and cleared by the health secretary.

**Publication: Deccan Chronicle**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: 9.10.2013**

**Headline: [Clinical trials: Inquiry ordered](#)**

**Synopsis:** The Deputy Director of Drugs Control in Chennai recently formed a team, to inquire into the issue of migrant workers and unemployed graduates being recruited, for unethical clinical trials by Clinical Research Organisations (CROs) in Chennai, following the expose by DC.

#### FDA

**Publication: MintPressNews**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: 8.10.2013**

**Headline: [FDA Policy: Big Pharma Firms Pay To Play](#)**

**Synopsis:** Major pharmaceutical companies are engaging in "pay to play" arrangements that allow

them to shape public policy on painkiller testing rules and regulations, according to e-mails obtained by a public records request.

**Publication: PharmaTimes**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: 8.10.2013**

**Headline: [FDA under fire over industry-funded advisory meetings](#)**

**Synopsis:** The tricky relationship between regulators and industry is thrown into the spotlight again as it emerges drugmakers paid hefty fees to attend meetings of a panel that advises the FDA. An investigative report in the Washington Post found that pharma companies paid as much as \$25,000 to attend sessions convened by a scientific panel on painkillers, and has led to claims that the industry was being given an opportunity to influence federal policy in this area.

### Drug Pricing

**Publication: Business Standard**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: 9.10.2013**

**Headline: [Pharma industry seeks tax reduction for DPCO drugs](#)**

**Synopsis:** While the government is trying to make essential drugs affordable to the masses by bringing more drugs under pricing control, the pharmaceutical industry, on the other hand, wants the government to play its part too by reducing taxes on essential drugs. The Indian Drug Manufacturers' Association (IDMA), Gujarat wing said that the government should consider reducing taxes on drugs that have come under pricing control.

### General Industry

**Website: Moneycontrol**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: 9.10.2013**

**Headline: [Merck drops India from Priority market list](#)**

**Synopsis:** US pharma major Merck Sharp & Dohme or MSD has dropped India from its list of priority markets in its latest global initiative to sharpen commercial and R&D capabilities. Other emerging markets like China, Russia and Brazil have found a place on the company's top ten priority market list. Developed markets such as US, UK, Canada, Japan, France, Germany and Korea are part of focus countries for Merck. The pharma major says it wants to target resources where there is potential to deliver and greatest return on investment.

**Publication: Hindustan Times**

**Edition: Online**

**Date: 8.10.2013**

**Headline: [Obamacare, falling Rs. may provide windfall to Indian pharma cos](#)**

**Synopsis:** The rupee's depreciation is good news for India's export-oriented pharmaceutical firms that are getting more in rupee terms for every dollar they earn. But the rupee, which has fallen 15% since May, has led to both windfall gains and losses. Experts said investors generally avoid markets where currency volatility (rise and fall) crosses the 5% threshold as "too risky".