



INDIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (HQs.)



(Registered under the Societies Act XXI of 1860)
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PRESS RELEASE

Indian Medical Association (IMA) is the elite apex body of Indian medical professionals with around 4 lakh Doctors from different specialties and has the maximum reach with 32 State branches and 1760 local branches spread across the country.

IMA wishes to draw your urgent attention towards a Notification issued by EMRB of NMC on 2nd August 2023 regarding prescribing Generic Drugs.

The ill-advised steps taken by NMC on the issue of Generic Drugs is an emergency. The regulation is mandatory for doctors to prescribe only generic drugs. It is a matter of great concern for IMA since this directly impacts patients' care and safety.

Generic promotion needs to be genuine.

Running trains without tracks is how the present promotion of Generic drugs by NMC appears to be.

NMC insists on its ethics guidelines to write prescription only in generic name.

This measure is just shifting the choice from a medical practitioner who is primarily concerned, trained and responsible for the patients' health than a chemist/person sitting in chemist shop, who is selling drugs. This naturally wouldn't be in the best interest of the patient. (We should refrain from just cost cutting irrespective of quality treatment)

If doctors are not allowed to prescribe branded drugs, then why such drugs should be licensed at all, given that modern medicine drugs can be dispensed only on prescription of doctors of this system.

Government, if serious about implementing generic drugs should give licence only to generics and not to any branded drugs while ensuring quality of generic drugs.

Making quality brands available in market but disallowing Doctors who are responsible for patients' health, from prescribing them seems dubious.

The onus of exercising the choice shifts from the doctor to the medical shop. Now Market forces rather than the profession will determine the choice

Will this assure that the patient gets generic version of the drug? or will the brand of pharmacy's choice be dispensed?



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The biggest impediment to Generic drugs is the uncertainty about it's quality. The quality control in the nation being very weak, there's practically no guarantee of the quality of drugs and prescribing drugs without assured quality would be detrimental to patient health.

Less than 0.1% of the drugs manufactured in India are tested for quality. This step should be deferred till the Government can assure the quality of all the drugs released into the market. Patient care and safety are not negotiable.

Rather than taking the NMC route the Government should take the Pharma route and ban all the branded drugs. Government allows several categories like Branded, Branded Generic and Generic and permits the Pharmaceutical Companies to sell the same product at different prices. Such loopholes in law should be plugged.

IMA demands a fool proof system of quality assurance before switching over to Generic drugs.

IMA had been demanding for long that only good quality drugs should be made available in the country and prices should be uniform and affordable. IMA urge Government to have 'one drug, one quality, one price' system whereby all brands should be either sold at the same price which should be controlled or banned and only generics allowed while ensuring highest quality of these drugs. The present system will only put huge dilemma in the minds of practitioners and cause unnecessary blaming of Medical Profession by the society.

The notification is an injustice to doctors who always hold the interest of their patients as non-negotiable.

If the Government and NMC want all the Doctors in the country to prescribe only generic drugs, they should simply order all pharmaceutical companies to manufacture all the drugs without brand names (how simple!!, try to do it dear NMC/GOI). Then no one has to write brand name. Let the NMC/GOI ensure quality generic drugs or accept responsibility if patients fail to respond to prescribe generics.

IMA demands deferring of this Regulation for wider consultations by the Government of India and IMA also calls for serious and urgent intervention by Union Government and NMC in this regard.

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