



## **Prescribe Generic Medicines or Face Action: Govt. Tells Medicine Practitioners**

**01 May-31 May, 2023**

The Centre has warned the central government hospital doctors and CGHS wellness centres to comply with the norms of prescribing generic medicines failing which, stern action would be taken against them. Govt. also asked doctors to completely curtail visits of medical representatives.

On the other side, according to the new notification by National Medical Commission, doctors now will get an UID for doctors to be able to practice medicine in the country, as per the new regulations by the NMC. UID will be generated centrally by the NMC ethics board and thereby grant the practitioner, registration in NMR and eligibility to practice medicine in India.

In another matter, The Advertisement Monitoring Committee at the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India flagged 32 fresh cases of food business operators (FBOs) making misleading claims and advertisements. They were found to be in contravention of the Food Safety and Standards (Advertisements & Claims) Regulations, 2018.

In an interesting move, the Union Government is likely to make good manufacturing practice (GMP) mandatory for all units manufacturing drugs in the country to maintain quality of drugs produced and exported from India. The move comes even as India's drugs regulator has sought to crack down on poor quality drugs.

Observing the efforts to develop a global pandemic preparedness system are yet to gain full momentum, a top Indian official has told the American pharma industry that a sustained political will and investment are key to ensure that the healthcare supply chain can effectively respond to a future crisis.

In this ninth volume of Occasional News Wrap, various dimensions of health regulation issues have been captured, which appeared by way of op-eds, articles, news etc. during the month of May, 2023.

S.N.	Article/Op-ed	Key Takeaway
1.	<b>FSSAI amends labelling rules for pre-packaged foods</b> <i>Indian Express</i> May 2, 2023	It has been asked to the Food Business Operators (FBOs) to substitute "Best Before Date" on the packages with "Expiry Date" or "Use by Date". The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has amended labelling and display rules for pre-packaged foods. The "Best Before Date" can be displayed as additional or optional information on the <a href="#">label</a> , stated an official release from the government.
2.	<b>Sustained political will &amp; investment needed to respond to future health crisis: Amitabh Kant</b> <i>PTI</i> May 4, 2023	A top Indian official has told the American pharma industry that a sustained political will and investment are key to ensure that the healthcare supply chain can effectively respond to a future crisis. Participating in a panel discussion at the India US Biopharma Health Summit, the former NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant underlined the need for geographical <a href="#">diversification</a> of manufacturing in different regions and improved stockpiles and inventory management.
3.	<b>Factory certification may be mandated for all drug makers.</b> <i>By Rhythma Kaul, Hindustan Time</i> May 5, 2023	The Union Government is likely to make good manufacturing practice (GMP) mandatory for all units manufacturing drugs in the country to maintain quality of drugs produced and exported from India, people familiar with the matter said. The move comes even as India's <a href="#">drugs regulator</a> has sought to crack down on poor quality drugs.
4.	<b>Covid-19 no longer a global health emergency: WHO</b> <i>By Durgesh Nandan Jha</i> <i>TNN</i> May 6, 2023	Covid-19, which claimed millions of lives around the world over the past three years, is no longer a <a href="#">public health emergency</a> of international concern (PHEIC), WHO declared. WHO DG Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told reporters in Geneva that the decision was taken following a recommendation from the UN agency's emergency committee that met recently.
5.	<b>Explained   Misleading food ads and regulations to curtail them</b> <i>By Saptaparno Ghosh</i> <i>The Hindu</i> May 7, 2023	The Advertisement Monitoring Committee at the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India flagged 32 fresh cases of food business operators (FBOs) making <a href="#">misleading claims</a> and advertisements. They were found to be in contravention of the Food Safety and Standards (Advertisements & Claims) Regulations, 2018.
6.	<b>Panel on standards for processed food</b> <i>By Priyanka Sharma</i> <i>Livemint</i> May 8, 2023	The apex food regulator, Food Safety Standard Authority of India has formed a committee to review and highlight new challenges in the area of <a href="#">nutraceuticals</a> and ultra-processed food. The committee will also recommend rapid kits and methods for detecting food pathogens and suggest ways to minimize adulteration. The newly constituted scientific committee met last week to address food safety issues.

7.	<b>India to seek pharma IPR waiver for future pandemics</b>  <i>By Kirtika Suneja ET Bureau May 11, 2023</i>	India is expected to seek a global <a href="#">patent waiver</a> for vaccines, therapy and diagnostics to tackle future pandemics at a mini-ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Paris next month. The move follows a five-year waiver for Covid-19 vaccines, secured in 2022. Officials anticipate an omnibus waiver could expedite the process of dealing with future pandemics.
8.	<b>Government makes unique ID mandatory for doctors</b>  <i>By Teena Thacker ET Bureau Healthworld.com May 15, 2023</i>	According to the new notification by NMC, doctors now will get an UID to be able to practice medicine in the country, as per the new regulations by the National Medical Commission. <a href="#">UID</a> will be generated centrally by the NMC ethics board and thereby grant the practitioner, registration in NMR and eligibility to practice medicine in India.
9.	<b>Prescribe generic medicines or face action: Centre tells doctors at central government hospital</b>  <i>PTI May 15, 2023</i>	The Centre has warned the central government hospital doctors and CGHS wellness centres to comply with the norms of prescribing <a href="#">generic medicines</a> failing which action would be taken against them. It was also asked to completely curtail visits of medical representatives. Despite of this, it has generally been observed that the doctors still prescribe branded medicines, which is strictly been viewed by the medical authorities now.
10.	<b>FSSAI working on standards for nutraceuticals</b>  <i>By Rhythm Kaul Hindustan Times May 17, 2023</i>	India may soon have mandatory standards for nutritional supplements since the FSSAI is working on benchmarks. India may soon have mandatory standards for nutritional supplements since the Food Safety Standards Authority of India is working on benchmarks, even as demand for <a href="#">nutraceuticals</a> increases rapidly in the country, according to people familiar with the matter.
11.	<b>Government releases operational guidelines for prevention and control of NCDs today</b>  <i>By Sushmita Panda FEhealthcare May 17, 2023</i>	The burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) has increased drastically in India, accounting for almost 63 percent of all deaths. The Central Government on released operational guidelines for the management of <a href="#">non-communicable diseases</a> in India. The guidelines were released on the occasion of World Hypertension Day and as a part of a G20 co-branded event today.

12.	<b>Govt to tighten cosmetics regulation</b>  <i>By Priyanka Sharma Livemint May 18, 2023</i>	<p>The government is planning to designate a Central Cosmetics Laboratory to test cosmetics samples, and may also designate any laboratory under its control for testing. Testing norms for <a href="#">cosmetic products</a> are being tightened as part of government plans to strengthen the regulatory mechanism for cosmetics. The move follows incidence of sub-standard cosmetic products found to be sold in the market, which have the potential to cause face allergies and skin infection.</p>
13.	<b>Need to boost global health equity: Modi at World Health Assembly</b>  <i>By Priyanka Sharma Livemint May 21, 2023</i>	<p>PM congratulated the World Health Organization on completing 75 years and expressed confidence that global health agency would be setting goals for the next 25 years when it reaches 100 years of service. He said that the role of WHO is more important more important for the challenges that lie ahead in the future. PM highlighted the gaps in the <a href="#">global health architecture</a>, which were exposed during the covid-19 pandemic and emphasized the need for a collective effort in building resilient global systems and boosting global health equity.</p>
14.	<b>FSSAI assessing WHO red flag on sugar substitutes, labelling may dent sales of diet and no-sugar foods &amp; drinks</b>  <i>By Ratna Bhushan ET Bureau May 22, 2023</i>	<p>The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India said it's evaluating the new guideline issued last week by the World Health Organization, which said that non-<a href="#">sugar sweeteners</a> like aspartame and stevia do not help in weight loss and can increase the risk of type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular diseases.</p>
15.	<b>Pharma departments briefs PMO on trade margin rationalisation</b>  <i>By Teena Thacker ET Bureau May 30, 2023</i>	<p>A presentation was made to the PMO in this regard and the concern of the <a href="#">Laghu Udyog Bharati</a> was also discussed. A decision is likely to be taken soon on the matter, said a person aware of the matter. The government has also revised discussions with the pharma and medical devices industries over the issue. The government has also revived discussions with the pharma and medical devices industries over the issue.</p>