

Price control to cover 52 new drugs

DECISION'S IMPACT

■ In September, NPPA capped prices of 43 formulation packs including drugs such as antibiotic Ciprofloxacin, BCG vaccine and anti-diabetic Metformin

■ The additional drugs join a list of nearly 400 essential medicines that have so far been placed under price control

The July order would have expanded the span of price controls to an additional 7% of the ₹75,000-crore retail pharma market. Since a new DPCO was promulgated last year, NPPA capped prices of 348 "essential drugs" defined in terms of specified strengths, with a share of about 20% of the market.

Earlier, in September, NPPA had capped the prices of 43 formulation packs including drugs such as antibiotic ciprofloxacin, BCG vaccine and anti-diabetic metformin.

The NPPA is also entrusted with the task of recovering amounts overcharged by manufacturers for the controlled drugs from consumers. It monitors the prices of decontrolled drugs as well in order to keep them at reasonable levels.

cancer and skin disorders

The move could dent the turnovers of leading drug companies, including Merck, Lupin, Cadila, Torrent Pharma, Alembic, Ajanta Pharma and Panacea Biotech. The NPPA's decision doesn't

The NPPA's decision doesn't lead to extension of price controls to control-free (unscheduled) category, as the latest modifications are meant to cover new formulations launched by

companies by combining an NLEM or non-NLEM drug. It may be recalled that NLEM drug, which is supposed to be controlled, with another NPPA's move to extend price control to non-NLEM drugs was prevented in September by the government.

Citing "public interest" and prevalence of "extraordinary circumstances," NPPA put

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