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Scanner on risky skin creams

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New Delhi, Nov. 25: India's drug regulator has agreed to examine a footnote in its rule-book that allows pharmaceutical companies to sell potentially dangerous skin creams over the counter for infections, fairness and good-looking skin.

The Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation (CDSCO), alerted by dermatologists that India is witnessing a pandemic of side-effects of these creams, has asked an advisory board to find ways to revise the footnote to curb the sales of such products.

Many of these creams are irrational combinations of steroids and other drugs that conflict with each other, or contain unnecessary drugs that don't help patients while exposing them to their potential side-effects.

The steroid-based creams are at times needed to treat skin disorders such as eczema, an inflammatory condition, or psoriasis, an autoimmune disease.

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