

Stringent generic drug policy soon to ensure quality

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New Delhi

THE drug controller general of India (DGCI) is working on stringent guidelines for generic drugs to ensure quality and efficacy of essential drugs.

"We are working on stringent guidelines for generics to ensure that patients get safe and effective drugs. After procurement, sampling of drugs will be done and they will be tested and assured of quality," said G N Singh, Drug controller General of India (DGCI) on sidelines of international workshop on patient safety and drug detection technology in the capital on Monday.

DGCI is also looking at roping in chemists from across the country to help government check the sale of fake or spurious drugs. A vigilance cell is being set up in every state to monitor fake or spurious drugs.

Singh said that he and his department are working to check counterfeit drugs and to change wrong im-

pression about India being one of the largest producers of counterfeit drugs. In a letter to the health ministry, World Health Organisation's representative in India, Nata Menabde has denied that WHO never conducted any study that mentions about India being source of 35 per cent of spurious drugs in the world.

"Being a federal state, where regulatory enforcement is done by the States, we need to ensure that we have effective systems in place in each State. We are going to scale up the capacity of enforcement at the state level during the twelfth plan period during 2012-17," said Arun Kumar Panda, joint secretary, ministry of health and family welfare.

PK Pradhan, secretary, ministry of health & family welfare said that there is need to build the capacity of the drug regulatory authorities, for enhanced detection of spurious medicines.

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