



MEDICINE INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

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Editors' Desk

Quality of medicines is the fundamental requirement of therapeutic management of any illness. Quality issues not only result in therapeutic failure but may cause serious adverse events too. Quality issues are often common and no one takes the responsibilities of poor or substandard medicines in the market. The Government of India has recently notified that the Marketing Company is responsible for quality issues of the medicines they market. This is a welcome move ensuring quality medicines in the market.

COVID - 19, though surfaced first at Wuhan City of China, removed all manmade barriers affecting the health of millions worldwide. India has initiated a war against this scary novel corona virus with Janata Curfew (Peoples Curfew) to suspending public transport services including complete lockdown in many areas in an attempt to break the transmission chain of the virus. Perhaps, in recent history such level of public health issue has not been seen. In addition to public health scare, the corona virus has threatened our medicine security system. While India has been known as the 'Pharmacy of the World', in absence

of supply of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) from China, it becomes difficult for the country to have sustainable supply for even domestic need. As a precautionary measure, the Government of India has already restricted the export of 13 APIs and their formulations. As there have been complete shutdown of API industries in China, India is in very vulnerable position as about 70% of APIs are from China alone. India is strong in finished good production but not on raw materials. Now, the Corona has taught us the need of self-sustainability and a package of Rs 13,760 crore for incentivising production of raw materials and APIs. This stimulus package could have been given much before. But better late than never!

Our honourable Prime Minister has given a call for recognising the services of health workers, essential service providers, and security persons who have been working tirelessly risking their life during our war against COVID-19. We salute them!

Wishing you all Safe and Healthy during this unprecedented health crisis!

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Quote

Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health is the most shocking and the most inhuman.

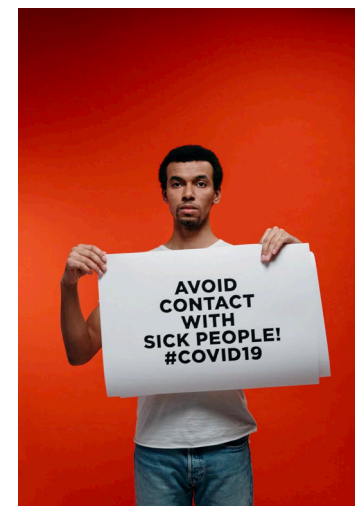
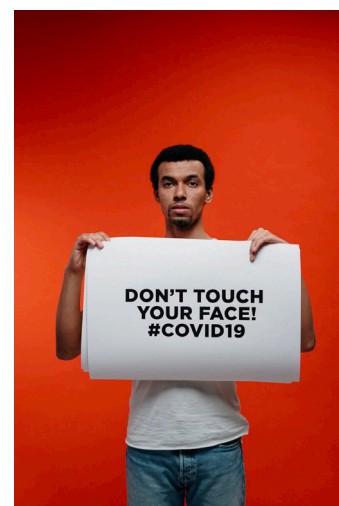
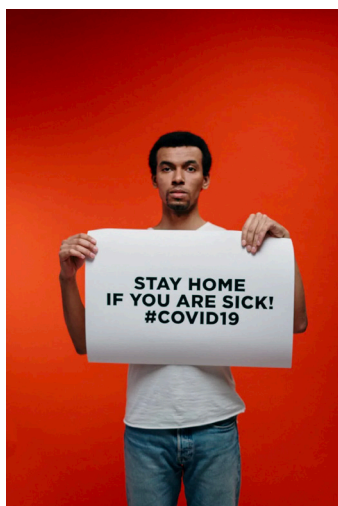
Martin Luther King Jr.

Important Health Days

April 6	Irritable bowel syndrome awareness day
April 7	World health day
April 11	World Parkinson's disease day
April 17	World Hemophilia day
April 24	World Meningitis day
April 25	World Malaria day
April 28	International day of Immunology
May 1	World Asthma day
May 5	World Hand hygiene day
May 8	World Thalassaemia day & World Red Cross day
May 10	World lupus day
May 17	World Hypertension day
May 20	World Autoimmune & Autoinflammatory Arthritis day
May 28	International day of action for Women's Health
May 29	World Digestive Health day
May 30	World Multiple Sclerosis (MS) day
May 31	World No Tobacco day
June 2	International cancer survivors day
June 5	World environment day
June 7	Tourette's awareness day
June 8	World brain tumor day
June 14	World blood donor day
June 19	World sickle cell day
June 21	International day of yoga
June 25	World Vitiligo day
June 26	International day against drug abuse and illicit trafficking

Urgent Health Challenges for this New Decade
(World Health Organization: <https://www.who.int/news-room/photo-story/photo-story-detail/urgent-health-challenges-for-the-next-decade>)

1. Elevating health in the climate debate.
2. Delivering health in conflict and crisis.
3. Making health care fairer.
4. Expanding access to medicines.
5. Stopping infectious diseases.
6. Preparing for epidemics.
7. Protecting people from dangerous products.
8. Investing in the people who defend our health.
9. Keeping adolescents safe.
10. Earning public trust.
11. Harnessing new technologies.
12. Protecting the medicines that protect us.
13. Keeping health care clean.



Conferences

Forum on Human on Human Resources for Health Supply Chain Management: People that Deliver (PtD), together with partners International Association of Public Health Logisticians (IAPHL), IntraHealth International, Pharmaceutical Systems Africa and SAPICS, are hosting the PtD Global Indaba: A Forum on Human Resources for Health Supply Chain Management at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Lusaka, Zambia, from 2–3 September 2020. The last date for submission of abstract is: 30th April 2020. More details at: <https://peoplethatdeliver.org/ptd/page/ptd-global-indaba>

Third MyDispense Global Symposium during 12th to 14th July 2020 at Monash Prato Centre: MyDispense is a free simulated learning and teaching environment that is designed to help students develop their skills and competency in dispensing medicinal products systematically, safely and accurately at a level of detail and difficulty corresponding to their knowledge and experience. It simulates the decision-making environment within which dispensing occurs, providing the opportunity for students to learn by making mistakes in a safe environment. For an instructor, MyDispense is a framework allowing you to create a broad range of exercises and assessments from the simplest to the most demanding. More details are available at: <https://info.mydispense.monash.edu/community/symposium/global-symposium-2020/>

FIP Congress 2020, Seville, Spain: 80th FIP (international Pharmaceutical Federation) world congress is scheduled during 13th to 17th September 2020 at Seville, Spain. More details regarding abstract submission is available at: <https://seville2020.fip.org/guidelines-on-writing-and-submitting-an-abstract/>

ISPOR Europe 2020: The leading European Conference for Health Economics and Outcomes Research 2020 (ISPOR Europe 2020) is scheduled during 14th to 18th September 2020 at Milan, Italy. The abstract submission ends on 10th June 2020. More details are available at: <https://www.ispor.org/conferences-education/conferences/upcoming-conferences/ispor-europe-2020>

International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP): The ICFP 2021 is scheduled at Pattaya City at Thailand during 1-4 February 2021. The theme of the Conference is “Family Planning & Universal Health Coverage: Innovate. Collaborate. Accelerate.” The abstract submission closes on 4th June 2020. More details are available: <https://icfp2021.org/submit-an-abstract>



Did You Know?



The mosquito man, Sir Ronald Ross an India born British Medical Doctor, is credited with the discovery of malaria transmission. During his research for finding the cause of malaria, he used to prick everyone who comes with fever and the patients refused to visit him for treatment. At times, he was keeping the volunteers in mosquito nets and leaving mosquitoes inside to bite. For every bite, the volunteers were paid. Later, he was awarded Nobel Prize in 1902 for his remarkable work on malaria.

Websites of Interest

Pillbox: Pillbox is one of the free database of prescription and over the counter drug information. It helps to quickly identify medications by their appearance and ingredients. This is the initiative of National Library of Medicine at the National Institute of Health of USA. The website can be accessed at <https://pillbox.nlm.nih.gov/index.html>

Health Policy Watch: It is a digital platform for independent reporting on top global health policy debates, trends, and research. Health Policy Watch provides open-access reporting that serves all stakeholders in the global health policymaking community by enhancing transparency and informed engagement. The website can be accessed at: <https://www.healthpolicy-watch.org/>

TrueNat Assay Kit: TrueNat TB test is developed by Indian Scientists intended to detect tuberculosis and multi-drug resistant TB. It has high diagnostic accuracy and World Health Organization has already endorsed. It provides result in about 90 minutes.

Two New Antibiotics Approved in India: Two new antibiotics discovered and manufactured by Wockhardt are approved by Drugs Controller General India. These novel antibiotics: EMROK (IV) and EMROK (Oral) indicated for acute bacterial skin and skin structure infections including diabetic foot infections and concurrent bacteraemia.

All Medical Devices are brought under Drugs and Cosmetics Act: The Government has notified the Amendment of Medical Device Rules bringing all medical devices under regulatory control. All medical devices including an instrument, apparatus, appliance, implant, material or other article, whether used alone or in combination including a software are now regulated

as drugs. The new rule is effective from 01st April 2020. This would help the government to exert control for ensuring their quality and bringing them under price control mechanism.

Restricted use of anti-HIV drugs for nCorona virus approved: The Drugs Controller General of India has approved the combination of lopinavir and ritonavir for patients with novel corona virus infection. These drugs are already approved for HIV treatment. The restricted use approval is an emergency measure in case of a public health emergency on patients affected by nCoV as per the treatment protocol designed by the ICMR. “Before using this combo of drugs on any patient, the doctor has to take an informed consent from the patient.

Indigenous Glucometer Developed: India has developed “SuChek”, a diabetes test kit. This indigenously developed glucometer is suitable for diverse climatic conditions and affordable, Government announced.

Resources

Clinical Management of severe acute respiratory infection when COVID – 19 is suspected: The World Health Organization (WHO) has released interim guideline for clinicians taking care of hospitalised adult and paediatric patients with severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) when a nCoV infection is suspected. It is not meant to replace clinical judgment or specialist consultation but rather to strengthen clinical management of these patients and provide to up-to-date guidance. The guideline can be downloaded from: [https://www.who.int/publications-detail/clinical-management-of-severe-acute-respiratory-infection-when-novel-coronavirus-\(ncov\)-infection-is-suspected](https://www.who.int/publications-detail/clinical-management-of-severe-acute-respiratory-infection-when-novel-coronavirus-(ncov)-infection-is-suspected)

‘Self-Care’ for sexual and reproductive health: The World Health Organization has published this guideline focusing on ways people can look after their own sexual & reproductive health, including self-injectable contraceptives, home-based ovulation predictor kits, HIV self-testing and self-sampling for HPV and sexually transmitted infections. This can be freely downloaded from: <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/325480/9789241550550-eng.pdf?ua=1>

Where There Are No Pharmacists: Where there are no trained pharmacists serving communities, other categories of health workers are called upon to order, buy, store, dispense and advise people on rational use of medicines. Where There Are No Pharmacists explains how to order them, store them, prepare them, dispense them and use them safely and effectively. This can be procured from Third World Network (TWN) in Penang, Malaysia. The contact email: twn@twnnetwork.org

National Guidelines for Gene Therapy Product Development and Clinical Trials: The Council of Medical Research (ICMR) along with the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has released the National Guideline for Gene Therapy Product Development and Clinical Trials. This guideline outlines the ethical and scientific requirements for gene therapy trials keeping in mind patient safety and efficacy. The guidelines is available at: https://icmr.nic.in/sites/default/files/guidelines/guidelines_GTP.pdf

Clinical Guidelines: Diagnosis and Treatment Manual: The MSF has developed this guideline intended for use by medical professionals involved in curative care at the dispensary and primary hospital. This 356-page diagnostic and treatment manual, updated on September 26, 2019, is available at: <https://medicalguidelines.msf.org/msf-books-hosting/14385582-English.pdf>

Alerts

USFDA Strengthened warning on Clozapine: The USFDA warned that constipation caused by the schizophrenia medicine, Clozapine, may lead to serious bowel complications. This can lead to hospitalization or even death if constipation is not diagnosed and treated quickly. The healthcare professionals are advised to evaluate bowel function before starting a patient on clozapine and avoid co-prescribing clozapine with other anticholinergic medicines that can cause gastrointestinal hypomotility. The patients are also advised to contact their doctor if any of these signs appear: nausea, vomiting, bloating or belly swelling, or belly pain.

Lamotrigine with possible immune system reaction: The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) in a safety alert communication asked all State Drugs Control Authorities to inform companies manufacturing Lamotrigine to insert warnings about 'hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis (HLH)' reaction as part of their leaflets or packaging inserts. Lamotrigine, a widely-sold medicine to treat bipolar disorder and seizures in epileptic patients will now have to carry a side-effect warning of possible 'immune system reaction' on its packages.

Nimesulide associated with Stevens-Johnson Syndrome (SJS) / Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis (TEN): The Pharmacovigilance Programme of India (PvPI) had issued advisory for the rational use of nimesulide following a case of nimesulide induced Stevens - Johnson Syndrome. In spite of the drug banned from using in paediatric population, it was inappropriately prescribed in child who developed the above adverse reaction. PvPI has urged healthcare professionals to take all necessary precautions in order to avoid such mis-happenings.

World Health Day Greetings!

April 7 is World Health Day. World Health Day is celebrated each year to mark the anniversary of the founding of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1948. This year it focuses on Nurses and Midwives coinciding with International Year of Nurses and Midwife. World Health Assembly designated 2020 as International Year of Nurses and Midwife to mark the bicentenary of the birth of the founder of modern nursing, Florence Nightingale. The entire editorial team appreciates the contribution of Nurses and Midwives in our Healthcare System. We salute them.

Foods to Avoid in Hypertension [Source: The Purple Book, First Edition, FSSAI, 2019]

1. Extra salt, Salt shaker on dining table, Pickle, Papad, Canned foods, Preserved food, Sauces, Jams, Jellies, Ketchup, Instant soups, Soup cubes, Packaged foods;
2. Salted nuts, chips, bread, and popcorn etc;
3. Bakery products such as biscuits, cookies, bread, cakes, donuts, waffles, puffs, khari etc, fried snacks and savouries;
4. Smoked, processed or canned meats, pork, beef, red meat, egg yolk, salted and dried fish;
5. Margarine, vanaspati and butter; and
6. Avoid reheating and reusing oil.

Course

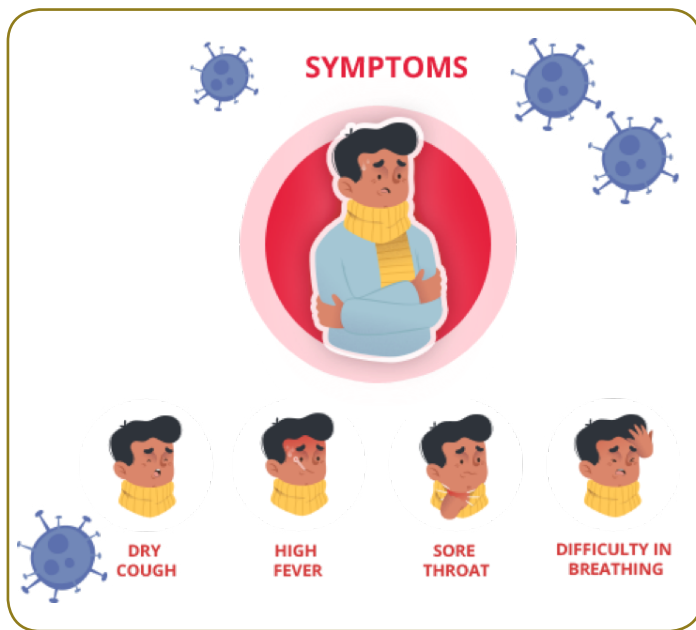
WHO Online course on emerging respiratory viruses including novel coronaviruses: The World Health organization has developed this free online course emerging respiratory viruses including novel coronavirus. It has the following modules: Introduction; Surveillance and Laboratory Detection; and Risk Communication and Community Management. More details are available at: <https://openwho.org/courses/introduction-to-ncov>

New Drugs Approved in India

S. No	Name of drug	Indication	Date of issue
1	Cidofovir dihydrate bulk drug and Cidofovir injection 75 mg/ ml (5 ml single use vial)	Cidofovir is indicated for the treatment of CMV retinitis in adults with acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) and without renal dysfunction. It should be used only when other medicinal products are considered as unsuitable.	03.01.2020
2	Dacomitinib tablet 15mg, 30mg and 45mg	For the first line treatment of patients with metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) with epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) exon 19 deletion or exon 21 L858R substitution mutations.	03.01.2020
3	Alpelisib film coated tablets 50mg, 150mg, 200mg	Alpelisib is a kinase inhibitor indicated in combination with Fulvestrant for the treatment of postmenopausal women, and men, with Hormone receptor (HR)-positive, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2)-negative, PIK3CA-mutated, advanced or metastatic breast cancer following progression on or after an endocrine-based regimen.	03.01.2020
4	Isavuconazole sulfate 100mg capsules	Indicated for patients 18 years of age and older for the treatment of Invasive Aspergillosis and Invasive Mucormycosis	14.02.2020
5	Azelnidipine tablets IP 8 mg	For the treatment of Stage I Hypertension	04.03.2020
6	Riboflavin Ophthalmic Solution 0.1%	It is intended to treat keratoconus and corneal ectasia following refractive surgery	11.03.2020
7	Pixantrone 29mg powder for concentrate for solution for infusion	Indicated as 3rd line and 4th line therapy for the treatment of adult patients with multiply relapsed or refractory aggressive Non-Hodgkins B- Cell Lymphomas (NHL)	11.03.2020
8	FDC of Bilastine 20mg and Montelukast 10mg tablets	Indicated for the treatment of allergic rhinitis in adults.	11.03.2020
9	Obeticholic acid bulk drug and Obeticholic acid 5mg/10mg tablets	For the treatment of primary biliary cholangitis (also known as primary biliary cirrhosis) in combination with ursodeoxycholic acid (UDCA) in adult with an inadequate response to UDCA or as monotherapy in adults unable to tolerate UDCA	11.03.2020
10	Isavuconazole (as Isavuconazonium sulfate) 200mg powder for concentrate for solution for infusion	Indicated for patients 18 years of age and older for the treatment of Invasive Aspergillosis and Invasive Mucormycosis	11.03.2020

Corona Virus Disease (COVID - 19)

COVID – 19, novel corona virus disease, has been scaring all of us for last three months or so. The causative virus is named as: severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). Though originated in Wuhan City of China has so far affected the people of 197 countries including India. It has killed 18,589 persons globally (as of 26th March 2020). The World Health Organization has confirmed that COVID – 19 is pandemic in nature. The Government of India has called for complete shutdown of the entire country for three weeks to break the chain of transmission.



Medicines: There is no medicine or vaccine for use at this point of time. However, Lopinavir/Ritonavir, a fixed dose combination antiretroviral sold under the brand name of Kaletra, has been approved by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), for restricted public health use among the symptomatic Covid-19 patients,

The Government of India has also recommended the use of Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) for high risk population - asymptomatic healthcare workers involved in the care of suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 and asymptomatic household contacts of laboratory confirmed cases.

Source of Information:

- Helpline Number: +91-11 – 2397 8046 or 1075
- <https://www.mygov.in/covid-19>
- <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>



Gallery



Release of RxPloration, a compilation academic research of Department of Pharmacy, on 5th March 2020.

From Left to Right
Dr. P. K. Manna, Dr. G. P. Mohanta (HoD),
Dr. V. Murugesan (Vice Chancellor),
Dr. N. Krishnamohan (Registrar),
Dr. R. Manavalan, Dr. K. Kannan



Appreciation by the Vice Chancellor to Miss. A. Karthika of II D.Pharm for the Gold Medal won by Women Football Team in the 1st Khelo India Football Tournament held at Bhubaneswar, Odisha.



National Conference on Chiral and Nano Technology: Application in Drug Design, Development and Use (CNTA 2020)

From Left to Right
Dr. S. Selvamuthukumar, Dr. R. Suresh,
Dr. K. Valliappan, Dr. K. Chitra,
Dr. G.P. Mohanta (HoD),
Dr. N. Krishnamohan (Registrar),
Dr. KLK. Paranjothy, Dr. Puratchikodi,
Dr. P. Venkatesan, Dr. T. Sivakumar, Dr. K. Kannan,
Dr. M. Swamivel Manickam, Dr. S. Sivakrishnan



Pharmblitz Sports Meet - Inaugurated by Dr. G.P.Mohanta (HoD) and Dr. P.K.Manna held on 8th March 2020



Padma Shri Professor Harkishan Singh, a legendary Pharmacy Teacher, Professional and Historian, has left for heavenly abode on 20th March 2020. Our Salutation to this Great Man!

DISCLAIMER:

The Newsletter intends to provide updated and reliable information on medicines and other related issues in an attempt to equip healthcare professionals to take informed decision in recommending medicines to the patients. However, they are encouraged to validate the contents. None of the people associated with the publication of the Newsletter nor the University shall be responsible for any liability for any damage incurred as a result of use of contents of this publication. The brand names of medicines, if mentioned, are for illustration only and the Newsletter does not endorse them.