



The Indian Pharmaceutical Association (IPA)

Platinum Jubilee Year

Society Regn No. Bom. 10 of 1960 GBBSD • Public Trust Regn. No. F- 746 (Bom) dt. 4.4.1960
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MISSION

The Indian Pharmaceutical Association (IPA) is the national professional body of pharmacists engaged in various facets of the profession of pharmacy. The IPA is committed to promote the highest professional and ethical standards of pharmacy, focus the image of pharmacists as competent healthcare professionals, sensitize the community, government and others on vital professional issues and support pharmaceutical education and sciences in all aspects

2014-2016

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Date: 26th May 2014

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To

Ms. Meena Agarwal,

Secretary,

Seventh Central Pay Commission,

P.O.Box No. 4599,

Hauz Khas, P.O.

New Delhi-110016

e-mail: secy-7cpc@nic.in

Subject: Indian Railway Pharmacists Association (IRPA) memorandum to 7th CPC

Dear Madam,

Indian Pharmaceutical Association (IPA) is the premier professional association of pharmacists in India, with a member base of over 10,000 spread across the length and breadth of the nation. IPA operates in India through 17 state branches and more than 33 local branches. The members represent various facets of pharmaceutical profession viz. industry, regulatory, community pharmacy, hospital pharmacy and pharmacy education. IPA is also actively associated in managing several academic programmes. As a member of Drug Technical Advisory Board, India, IPA is actively involved in advising the government on matters of professional importance.

IPA is affiliated with international pharmaceutical associations like FIP, FAPA, CPA, AAPS, AAiPS, IPSF and WHO, for carrying out various collaborative professional activities, which include organizing training programmes for professionals from industry, academics, regulatory and pharmacy practice. IPA also makes representations to the authorities on matters of professional interest and works constantly towards upgrading the standards of professional services offered by the pharmacists.



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We at the IPA strongly support the IRPA memorandum and urge the ministry to look into the issues of Railway Pharmacists and kindly accept revision of increase in minimum pay structure and allowances, restructuring of posts and time bound promotions.

Who is a Pharmacist?

A Pharmacist is the most easily accessible healthcare professional, who is a vital member of the healthcare team and is entrusted with multiple responsibilities ranging from inventory control to dispensing medicines to patient care. Pharmacists make important decisions in the selection of drugs, managing inventories, dispensing the right medications, providing instructions and counseling to patients about their illness and medications, and promote rational use of medicines. In Railway health posts pharmacists in addition perform all nursing duties. In many states, allopathic doctor, Pharmacist and group D employee (ward boy) work in 24-hour emergency team and in VVIP ambulance duty. No nurse or other paramedical person is a part of it. By playing these versatile roles, pharmacists can not only minimize unnecessary health care expenditures to the exchequer, but also contribute significantly to public health.

One of the following qualifications and duration of study is needed for one to be a Registered Pharmacist and practice pharmacy in our country:

	Qualifications	Duration of study after 10 + 2	Duration of training	Total No.of years of study + training
1	Diploma in Pharmacy	2 years	3 months	14.25 years
2	Bachelor of Pharmacy	4 years	1 month	16 years
3	Pharm.D.	5 years	1 year Hospital Internship	18 years



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Present situation:

In spite of playing many important and versatile roles in the healthcare system, unfortunately, in various departments in the government, other lower qualifications and some non-technical positions have been given higher pay scales than the pharmacists, which has de-motivated and demoralized the pharmacists. For example:

Course	Entry	Duration	Training	Total Duration	Registration required	Pay Scales
Diploma in Pharmacy	10+2	2 yrs.	3 months	14.25 yrs.	Pharmacy council	Rs. 5200-20200+ GPRs. 2800
Diploma Engineering	10	3 yrs.	Nil	13 yrs.	Nil	Rs 9300-34800 + GP Rs. 4200

In order to derive maximum benefits of having pharmacists, it is important to appoint and retain talented professionals to meet the healthcare objectives. One of the best ways to have talented pharmacists in any organization is by offering respectable pay scales and good promotional policies.

There has been unrest among the Railway Pharmacists since long time. We urge you again to kindly take a serious note of the demands in the memorandum and initiate necessary steps.

As a professional association working at national and international level, we will be happy and honored to extend any help in this regard.

Thanking you,

Yours Faithfully,

S D Joag
Secretary General, IPA

Encl: Copy of IRPA memorandum to 7th CPC