



# The Indian Pharmaceutical Association (IPA)

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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

**2016 - 2018**

IPA/110/85

August 19, 2016

### President

Rao V. S. V. Vadlamudi

To

Shri J P Nadda,

Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare

Department of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India

Room No. 348, 'A' Wing, Nirman Bhavan,

New Delhi - 110011

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## Sub: Request to include pharmacists in Diabetes Control Programme (NPCDCS)

Respected Sir,

The Indian Pharmaceutical Association (IPA) is a 77-year old association of pharmaceutical professionals, and is registered as a charitable trust. Its objective is to promote the science and art of pharmacy in all aspects and impart suitable education and training to professionals working in the area of pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences. As a member of the Drug Technical Advisory Board (DTAB), IPA is actively involved in advising the Government on matters related to drugs & regulation and in healthcare activities in collaboration with international organizations like FIP, FAPA, CPA, WHPA and WHO.

Sir, we are writing to you to consider utilizing untapped potential of practicing pharmacists (retail pharmacy and hospital pharmacy sector) in the National Program for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, CVD and Stroke (NPCDCS).

Traditionally, the pharmacist's role in healthcare has been centered around dispensing of medications. But globally, the pharmacist's roles have expanded over time to include more direct patient care such as primary care and disease management services, and their roles continue to evolve today. Now more than ever, team-based healthcare is gaining importance. Pharmacists are the first point of contact for the patients and can positively influence their healthcare behavior.

In a country like India with illiteracy, poverty and lack of health literacy, pharmacists have tremendous scope to contribute to the improvement of public health. With this conviction, IPA decided to explore the role of pharmacists in tuberculosis control back in the year 2006 and ultimately succeeded to develop a public private partnership (PPP) with Government TB authorities in the Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP). The result of consistent efforts established the pharmacist's role in referral of symptomatics, community awareness, as patient counsellors and as DOTS providers.

The Central TB Division signed an MoU with IPA and other stakeholders in the year 2012 to expand the PPP across the country and IPA along with the partners is working towards the objectives of the the Central TB Division. IPA has developed a short training programme for pharmacists and a Training Module, which was reviewed and adopted by the Central TB Division with slight modifications. Till date more than 2000 retail pharmacists (chemists) are trained for TB DOTS and thus they work as extended hands of the RNTCP to serve the TB community.

