



Drug Information Bulletin

Drug Information Centre (DIC)

Indian Pharmaceutical Association

Bengal Branch

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Editorial

Recently concluded 72nd World Health Assembly (WHA) have adopted a landmark resolution on transparency in drug pricing in which the resolution asks WHO member states to "Take appropriate measures to publicly share information on the net prices of health products", which it defines as the "net price or effective price or net transaction price or manufacturer selling price[that] is the amount received by manufacturers after subtraction of all rebates, discounts, and incentives" inspite of steep resistance from Britain, Germany and Japan.

This resolution calls on member states to share more information about the prices they pay for drugs, which can vary widely around the world and are often kept shrouded in secrecy.

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Gheyebresus, Director General of WHO, called the resolution a "landmark agreement to enhance the transparency of pricing for medicines, vaccines and other health products," in his closing remarks before the close of the WHA. USA, which had advocated making pricing clearer while allowing firms to keep their research costs secret, also welcomed the resolution.

It is believed by the experts that this resolution will help in achieving Universal Health Care.



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PCI notifies for prefixing "Dr." before the name of the candidate who awarded the degree of Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm. D)

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(Constituted under the Pharmacy Act, 1948)

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24 MAY 2019

The Director,
Board of Examination and Evaluation,
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Sub: Pharm.D Course- Clarification regarding nomenclature of Pharm.D./Pharm.D.(Post Baccalaureate) on Pass Certificates.

Ref: Your letter No. SGBAU/3/Tabulation/67/2018, dt. 17.1.2018. - S/107

Sir,

With reference to your letter quoted above, it is stated that the Pharmacy Council of India has taken a decision for prefixing "Dr." before the name of the candidate who awarded the degree of Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm. D.). All universities examining authorities approved by the Pharmacy Council of India under section 12(2) of the Pharmacy Act, 1948 to hold examination of Pharm D students have been requested vide this Council's letter dt. 8.2.2012 followed by the letter dt. 16.2.2012 to use the prefix "Dr." before the names of the candidates while awarding the degree certificates under regulation 18 of the Pharm D Regulations, 2008.

Yours faithfully


(ARCHNA MUDGAL)
Registrar-cum-Secretary

CC to-

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(ARCHNA MUDGAL)
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pci/14-126 letters/17.5.2019/10.59am

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Restriction on use of Buclizine to prevent its misuse

In a recent notice CDSCO, Govt. of India put a restriction on Buclizine that “the manufacturers label the container of Buclizine and its formulation and also mention in conspicuous manner on the package insert and promotional literature of Buclizine with the words “not to be used as appetite stimulant”.

Source: CDSCO

Study Result: The world's rivers are contaminated with antibiotics

The world's rivers are widely contaminated with antibiotics, according to a new global study, the first of its kind.

Researchers from the University of York in the UK analyzed samples from rivers in 72 countries and found that antibiotics were present in 65% of them.

Dangerous levels of contamination were most frequently found in Asia and Africa, the team said, with sites in Bangladesh, Kenya, Ghana, Pakistan and Nigeria exceeding safe levels by the greatest degree.

The worst case was found at a site in Bangladesh, where concentrations of the drug Metronidazole - which is used to treat bacterial infections, including skin and mouth infections -- exceeded safe levels by up to 300 times.

Safe levels can range from 20,000 to 32,000 nanograms per liter (ng/l), depending on the antibiotic, according to new guidelines established by the AMR Industry Alliance, a coalition of biotech, diagnostics and pharmaceutical companies set up to provide sustainable solutions to curb antimicrobial resistance.

For details:

<https://edition.cnn.com/2019/05/27/health/antibiotic-s-contaminate-worlds-rivers-intl-scli/index.html>

54 percent of Health Professionals in India do not have required qualifications: Study published in BMJ

Around 54% of health professionals including doctors, nurses, midwives and other paramedics in India do not have required qualifications,

whereas 20% of adequately qualified doctors are not in the current workforce, a new study in the British Medical Journal (BMJ) shows highlighting concerns about a severe dearth of quality care across the country, particularly in the hinterland.

Pointing at a significant disparity between the number of registered health professionals and those who are actually practicing, the findings of the study show health workforce number around 3.8 million under the National Sample Survey (NSS). But this number is about 1.2 million less than the total number of health professionals registered with different councils and associations.

Of the currently working health professionals, around 25% do not have the required qualifications as laid down by professional councils, the study says.

The density of doctors and nurses and midwives per 10,000 population is 20.6 according to the NSS and 26.7 based on the registry data, reflecting a widening gap between demand and supply of health resources which is already in shortage.

The study, conducted by researchers from the Indian Institute of Public Health and the Public Health Foundation of India, was designed on a nationally representative cross-section household survey and review of published documents by the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence.

“Distribution and qualification of health professionals are serious problems in India when compared with the overall size of the health workers. Policy should focus on enhancing the quality of health workers and mainstreaming professionally qualified persons into the health workforce,” the authors of the study concluded.

The level of required qualifications considered for doctors (allopathic, dental and AYUSH) was graduate or postgraduate in medicine; for nurse and midwife higher secondary with technical education in medicine or related field; and for

others higher secondary with technical education in paramedical related fields.

The findings show more than 58% of all health workers are male. The proportion of males is higher in allopathic, AYUSH and dental categories, and lower in the nurse and midwife category. Around 80% of all health workers are in the 25–60 years age group. Around 30% of all health workers, 15% among allopathic doctors, reported their educational level below the higher secondary level. Most of the health workers reported to be employed as regular wage earners (57%). However, as high as 63% of allopathic and 88% of AYUSH doctors reported themselves as self-employed.

More than 80% of doctors and 70% of nurses and midwives are employed in the private sector.
Source: ET Health World

Recent revision of USP

1. <800> Hazardous Drugs-Handling in Health Care Settings
2. Cidofovir
3. Clonidine Transdermal System
4. Itraconazole Capsules

Details: <http://www.uspnf.com/notices>



IPA delegates attended International Medical innovation and cooperation forum in China

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 organization 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.

Europe limits use of Tofacitinib due to clotting issues

The European Medicines Agency's Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee temporarily restricted twice-daily 10 milligram doses of Pfizer's Xeljanz, or Tofacitinib, for some patients due to the risk of blood clots in the lungs. The EMA and the FDA are both reviewing the issue.

Ref. Endpoints News

FDA opening call center for access to unapproved cancer drugs

The FDA is opening a call center to handle requests for access to unapproved cancer drugs under the agency's new Project Facilitate pilot program. FDA staff will field requests and connect patients and health care providers with contacts at drug or biotechnology companies, complete request forms, identify institutional review boards, and follow up with health care providers to ensure summary reports are submitted.

Ref. Regulatory Focus

Reader speaks.....

Dr. Subhash C. Mandal

Editor, Drug Information Bulletin (DIB)

Indian Pharmaceutical Association, Bengal Branch.

Dear Sir,

As mentioned in my Whats App message and subsequent reply I received from you I am sharing the Newsletters with my Web-site Manager to upload the same in my website. I would like to thank you for sending these newsletters which are very informative and specially for the Pharmacists and the person like who runs a Pharmacy Department.

A small note of acknowledgement of this mail will be appreciated.

Regards

Samiran Das,

Consultant and in charge SASK Pharmacy Dept.

Fellow, UICC, Geneva