



The Indian Pharmaceutical Association (IPA)

(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

2018 - 2020

IPA/110/495

December 4, 2020

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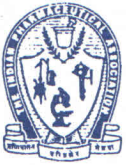
Sub: Request for engaging the Indian Pharmaceutical Association as a partner in training pharmacists for immunization against COVID-19 reg.

Dear Sir,

The Indian Pharmaceutical Association (IPA) is an 80-year old association of pharmacy professionals in India (www.ipapharma.org) with a member base of over 15,000, spread across the nation operating through 22 state branches and more than 55 local branches. IPA is a non-profit making organization registered as a charitable trust with a constitution and functions on democratic principles. IPA's main objective is to position the pharmacist as one of the important healthcare professionals of India. As a member of the Drug Technical Advisory Board, India, IPA is actively involved in advising the government on matters of drug regulation and those that are important to the pharmacy profession. IPA is affiliated to international associations like FIP, FAPA, CPA, AAPS, SEARPharm Forum and WHO for carrying out various collaborative professional activities, which include organizing training programmes for pharmacy professionals from industry, academics, regulatory and practice, making representations to the authorities on matters of professional interest and constantly working towards upgrading the standards of professional services offered by the pharmacists.

We join the whole Nation appreciating our honourable PM for initiating effective steps in containing the COVID-19 pandemic and personally overseeing the various strategic initiatives including vaccination to the 130 crore Indians. His visit to the vaccine manufacturing companies to understand the exact status of vaccine production has tremendously boosted the confidence of all countrymen.

We would like to express our gratitude for considering our request to include pharmacists as potential vaccinators. In many developed nations, the role of a pharmacist already includes vaccination and pharmacists are regularly involved in prescribing and administering various vaccines to adults as well as children in pharmacies. Sir, pharmacists in India will require a tailor-made training program to equip them to be vaccinators. The training module needs to be made considering the different pharmacy settings (hospital-based pharmacy and retail (community) pharmacy) and the existing knowledge level and skills of the pharmacists.



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At the IPA, we work closely with pharmacists all across the country for training and education purpose in different areas like Tuberculosis Control, Good Pharmacy Practices (GPP), Disease State Management, Self-Care, Refreshers course and other relevant subjects as a part of continuous professional development of pharmacists. We have the required expertise, thorough understanding of the practice of pharmacy and have rich experience in training. In collaboration with the Central TB Division, MoHFW, IPA has developed a public-private partnership engaging retail (community-based) pharmacists in the TB Control Programme and pharmacists have worked as DOT providers. For the training on GPP, the IPA received support from the CDSCO and the WHO Country Office. We are also conducting refreshers course to registered pharmacists working at different settings in collaboration with Pharmacy Council of India (PCI), which is mandatory as per the Pharmacy Practice Regulation (PPR) following a training module approved by PCI.

The Indian Pharmaceutical Association has an extensive network of Local and State Branches and has worked with different Chemists and Pharmacist Associations and NGOs all across the country. We are closely working with the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), a global federation of pharmacists representing 3 million pharmacists worldwide. We will get all the technical inputs and guidance from FIP in developing the training module for pharmacists. We are herewith enclosing a letter from the FIP for your ready reference.

With this background, we consider ourselves to be in the most appropriate position to get involved in the training of pharmacists for vaccination. We are writing this letter specifically with a request to consider us, the Indian Pharmaceutical Association, as a partner in the Government of India's efforts to train pharmacists and other health care workers identified in the country as potential vaccinators. We extend our full support and look forward to hearing from you regarding the next steps.

We firmly believe that together we will be successful in battle against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thanking you,
Yours sincerely,

Suresh Khanna
National Honorary General Secretary

Cc: President, PCI,
Drugs Controller General of India,
Ms. Vandana Gurnani, IAS,
Additional Secretary and Mission Director, NHM

Encl : Letter from FIP President, Dominique Jordan