

**CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY HEALTH, MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH  
UT SECRETARIATE, CHANDIGARH**

No. PA/Secy-Health/2023/02

Dated: 02.01.2023


**ADVISORY  
(Prescription of Generic Medicines)**

Access to quality and affordable healthcare is at the core of various initiatives and policies of the Chandigarh Administration. Promoting generic medicines is important to improve medicine access to reduce out-of-pocket expenses of the public. Generic medicine are effective substitute with same clinical benefits/therapeutics effect as branded medicines as they have same active ingredient, same strength, bioequivalent, dosage form (such as a tablet/injectable), and route of administration.

2. As a regulatory measure, National Medical Commission has circulated Registered Medical Practitioner (Professional Conduct) Regulations, 2022. These regulations include guidelines "GENERIC MEDICINE AND PRESCRIPTION GUIDELINES" to reduce out-of-pocket spending on medications which accounts for a major proportion of public spending on health care as generic medicines are 30-80 % cheaper than branded drugs. Prescribing generic medicines may bring down health care cost and improve access to quality care. Some of these guidelines are summarised as under:

- i. Prescribe drugs with 'generic'/'non-proprietary'/'pharmacological' names only. However in the case of drugs with a narrow therapeutic index, biosimilars and similar other exceptional cases, this practice can be relaxed.
  - ii. Avoid prescribing "branded" generic drugs.
  - iii. Educate medical students, patients and the public regarding the equivalence of generic medicine with their branded counterparts
3. In view of above, all the Health Facilities and Doctors of the Chandigarh Administration are hereby advised to take following measures:

- i. To comply with NMC Regulations on 'Generic Medicine and Prescription Guidelines'. In exceptional circumstances where branded medicines are prescribed, a date-wise diary may be maintained by all the physicians specifying reasons for prescribing branded generic drugs. It will help us in further streamlining the functioning and also in dealing with the all sort of allegations.
- ii. Circulate the list of available generic medicines to all physicians working under their control and also put it on institutional websites to make it accessible to general public. Instruct them to prescribe, as far as possible, generic medicines only, if available.

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- iii. All chemist shops within the premises of Government Health Facilities may be encouraged to ensure the availability of generic medicines. Further may incorporate the clause to ensure the availability of Generic Medicines in all chemist shops operating within the premises in all future tenders.
- iv. Director Principal GMCH-32 and the Director Health & Family Welfare may highlight the benefits of using generic medicines and dispel public perception about quality and efficacy of these medicines through Press Notes/Radio FM/Social Media.

The undersigned will review the status of implementation of this advisory, after about one month.

  
(Yashpal Garg, IAS)

Secretary Health,  
Medical Education & Research

To,

1. Director Principal, GMCH-32, Chandigarh Administration
2. Director Health Services- GMSH-16, Chandigarh Administration
3. Medical Superintendent, GMCH-32, Chandigarh Administration
4. Medical Superintendent, GMSH-16, Chandigarh Administration

Copy to:

1. Director, PGIMER, Chandigarh with the request to consider actions on similar lines with regard to the PGIMER, Chandigarh
2. President, IMA Chandigarh with the request for actions on similar lines by all the Private Health Institutions and Private Doctors in UT Chandigarh

Copy also forwarded to:

1. Additional Secretary, Health, UT Administration Chandigarh
2. Director (PR), UT Administration Chandigarh
3. PS to Adviser to Administrator UT for information of worthy Adviser

  
(Yashpal Garg, IAS)

Secretary Health,  
Medical Education & Research