Indian Government to Phase Out Malaria Drug - Artemisinin

The government has decided to take off the shelves an anti-malarial drug, artemisinin, in India that is already banned the world over. Sold locally under several brands, the drug when used as a single drug can make malaria parasites resistant to the medicine. The move comes in almost after two years of the World Health Organisation’s recommendation to withdraw the mono-therapies of the drug from the market, while it can continue as a combination with other effective anti-malarial drugs. Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has recently ordered all state drug regulators to phase out all oral single drug formulations of artemisinin and its derivatives by July 2009.

Who Working on Special Norms For Swine Flu Vaccine

WHO is framing a separate set of guidelines for giving regulatory approval to companies that manufacture vaccines aimed at preventing the H1N1 virus that causes the swine flu pandemic. The new guidelines will have detailed parameters for each stage of trial for these vaccines. The guidelines will also give away detailed information about the type of potency test these vaccines will have to qualify, the animal model to be used for preclinical data stage.

Global Food & Beverage Giants Planning Healthy Tag for Indian Market

Indian subsidiaries of global food and beverage companies such as Unilever, Kellogg, Coca-Cola, PepsiCo and ConAgra are planning to adopt common nutritional labelling standards to address growing health awareness and concerns about obesity. Move is aimed at pre-empting the integrated foods law that is expected by the year end.

5-In-1 Booster Shot for Immunisation

The government is expected to upgrade the existing three-in-one vaccine for infants to a five-in-one by the end of the year under the national immunisation programme. The pentavalent vaccine will enable infants to be immunised for five ailments – diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus (DPT), hepatitis B and haemophilus influenza type B(Hib) that causes pneumonia and meningitis through a single shot. The ministry plans to launch the pentavalent vaccine in five states- Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Jammu & Kashmir and Karnataka in the first phase during 2009-11.

IN THIS ISSUE:

✓ Hospital and Health insight
✓ Recent researches and developments
✓ Upcoming conferences.
✓ Do you know??
✓ Events at IIHMR, New Delhi

**UPCOMING CONFERENCES**

1. e-India 2009
DATE: 25th - 27th August 2009
HICC, Hyderabad, India

2. Telemedicon 2009
DATE: 6th - 8th November 2009
Pune(Maharashtra), India
WEB: [www.telemedicon09.com](http://www.telemedicon09.com)

3. Health Conclave 2009
DATE: 18th - 19th November 2009
New Delhi, India
VENUE: Indian Habitat Centre
ORGANIZED BY: International Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR), New Delhi, India
WEB: [www.iihmrdelhi.org](http://www.iihmrdelhi.org)
DO YOU KNOW??

1. 11th July : World population day

2. Health scenario around the world-The International Society for Quality in Healthcare (ISQua) sets global benchmarks in quality care.

3. Corporate hospital group Apollo has reported a net profit of Rs 118 crore for the year ended March 31, 2009, up by 15.6% from Rs 102 crore in the previous year.

4. Insurance companies can repudiate a mediclaim policy if true and full information is not furnished – supreme court

5. More trouble likely for Indian Biopharma companies in US

Events at IIHMR, New Delhi

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

1. 17th Aug : Run for Health

2. 18th Aug : Foundation day celebration, Dr. S. K. Gupta, world renowned cardiologist will give a talk on lifestyle diseases and its prevention by lifestyle modifications like exercises, diet and rajyoga meditation. The internationally acclaimed Dr. Gupta has proved that heart block as shown by angiographies can be reversed by these modifications which is accepted world over by medical fraternity.

3. 31st Aug – 1st Sep: National Consultation Meet on GIS mapping of healthcare facilities and services in India sponsored by WHO and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare at IHC, Delhi.

HEALTH DRIVE SOON, GOOD THERE’S NO VOTING HERE

After wooing the masses with the largest job guarantee scheme in the world, the ruling Congress-led coalition will launch a healthcare programme in two months to increase the coverage of the public health system manifold. Under Rajiv Gandhi Aushadhi Yojana, medicines for all ailments will be given free to all large sections of population through state run hospitals. The programme also envisages replacing branded drugs with unbranded ones in the nine existing health insurance schemes for the poor and using the savings paying premium to insure more people. Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu will implement the programme by September, followed by Orissa and Himachal Pradesh. Subsequently the scheme will cover the entire country.

$ 80 MILLION BOOST TO FIGHT AGAINST HIV

India’s fight against HIV just got an $ 80 million push. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation increased its funding commitment to Avahan its initiative to reduce the spread of HIV in India to $ 338 million ($ 1,652 crore) from the previous $ 258 million.

SENIOR CITIZENS GET 30 HEALTH COVER PRODUCTS

Senior citizens now have a reason to smile. Close on the heels of the Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority (IRDA) asking insurance companies to relax the entry age for senior citizens up to 65 years, 30 products have been launched by insurance companies in the last few months, informed J Hari Narayan, chairman, IRDA at the FICCI Health Insurance Conference.

GLOBAL HUNT FOR SWINE FLU VACCINE INTENSIFIES

Governments and scientists around the world ramped up the hunt for a vaccine to battle the swine flu pandemic, with Australia launching human trials for a serum. US officials announced they were searching for volunteers to run their own trials of two swine flu vaccines and a Chinese drug company said it would soon test its own preparation to fight the A (H1N1) virus, which has killed more than 700 people worldwide. The hunt for a vaccine accelerated as swine flu declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) continued its spread both in southern regions currently in winter and amid the summer in Asia and Europe.

DELHI GOVERNMENT TARGETS HOSPITALS FOR PLASTIC BAN

After shops and markets, the Delhi government is now planning to check the use of plastic bags in hospitals and nursing homes. Sources said the Directorate of Health Services is about to send directions to medical superintendents of all hospitals in this regard. Only biodegradable plastic bags are allowed at hospitals or any medical care facility with 100 or more beds. The move comes after complaints that the plastic bag ban was being rampantly violated at these places. The Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), the Environment Department’s arm to coordinate the enforcement of the ban.

AN AIIMS-LIKE AYURVEDA HOSPITAL TO COME UP IN DELHI

The government will set up an All India Institute of Ayurveda in the capital as a quality research and referral centre in the traditional Indian system of medicine. The hospital will be at par with All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), one of Asia's premier research and referral hospitals. The minister said that the institute will also aim to establish link between ayurveda and modern sciences and translate traditional standards into modern scientific methods to increase the global appeal of ayurveda.
OBESITY COSTS US HEALTH SYSTEM $147 BILLION—STUDY

Obesity-related diseases account for nearly 10 percent of all medical spending in the United States or an estimated $147 billion a year, US researchers have said. They said obese people spend 40 percent more per year in healthcare costs than people of normal weight. The CDC outlined 24 new recommendations on how communities can combat obesity in their neighbourhoods and schools by encouraging healthier eating and more exercise.

H1N1 MORE DEADLY FOR THE PREGNANT

US Centre for disease control and prevention (CDC) has shown that pregnant women infected with H1N1 are specially at risk of death due to the infection. The study confirms WHO’s initial warnings that being pregnant will put women at greater risk of developing complications from the pandemic H1N1 flu virus.

TRAINING OF BLOCK HEALTH ACTIVISTS AT LUCKNOW Conducted By IIHMR, NEW DELHI

The training was organised by Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, Raibareilly, Uttar Pradesh with the support of ATRIMED Foundation and technical support of IIHMR, New Delhi from 23rd to 28th June 2009 at Sahbhagi Sikshan Kendra, Lucknow. Total 35 block level trainers attended this training session.

NOTE: The newsletter is open for inclusion of any information or advertisement; however selection of information will be governed by the SYNAPSE Team, IIHMR, New Delhi

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