

# GENERIC DRUGS TO TREAT FOUR RARE DISEASES LAUNCHED

Relevant for: Science & Technology | Topic: Biotechnology, Genetics & Health related developments

To enjoy additional benefits

CONNECT WITH US

November 24, 2023 09:38 pm | Updated November 25, 2023 01:32 am IST - NEW DELHI

COMMENTS

SHARE

READ LATER

Tablets of Avigan, a drug approved as an anti-influenza drug. | Photo Credit: Reuters

Providing relief to patients with rare diseases across India, the Union Health Ministry has made available generic drugs to support the care and treatment of four ailments: Tyrosinemia-Type 1, Gauchers Disease, Wilson's Disease, and the Dravet-Lennox Gastaut Syndrome. This means that the cost of these drugs will be slashed by anywhere between 60 and 100 times of their current market value.

The Ministry is also in the process of making available drugs for more rare diseases, including Phenylketonuria and Hyperammonemia, over the next few months. "The approvals for these drugs are awaited," said V.K. Paul, NITI Aayog's member with expertise on health issues. He added that this initiative would also result in patients' costs dropping from crores annually to mere lakhs. Additionally, a sickle cell disease drug formulation will now be made available for children.

A rare disease is a health condition of particularly low prevalence that affects a small number of people. It collectively afflicts 6-8% of the population in any country at any given time, so India could have 8.4 crore to 10 crore such cases, according to the Ministry. Nearly 80% percent of these diseases are genetic in nature.

"To bring in these drugs a special initiative was taken, and discussions were held with academia, pharma industries, organisations, the Drug Controller, and the Department of Pharmaceuticals. Thirteen rare diseases were prioritised. We particularly worked on sickle cell disease, and on the syrup for children under five who can't be administered tablets," said Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.

"This venture is purely a non-commercial venture guided only with the motive to serve those in acute need. For years, the Health Ministry through various schemes has been trying to financially help as many patients as possible but this is a more sustainable measure for not just patients in India but also worldwide," he said.

Dr. Paul added that the Ministry was also engaging with companies who are selling patented rare disease drugs. "We are actively looking at how best to work for patients who urgently need these medicines," he explained.

Several companies -- including Biophore India, Laurus Labs, Azico Biophore, MSN Pharmaceuticals, Akums Drugs and Pharmaceutical – have come forward to take part in the venture.

COMMENTS

SHARE

[preventive medicine](#) / [medicine](#) / [public health/community medicine](#)

BACK TO TOP

Comments have to be in English, and in full sentences. They cannot be abusive or personal. Please abide by our [community guidelines](#) for posting your comments.

We have migrated to a new commenting platform. If you are already a registered user of The Hindu and logged in, you may continue to engage with our articles. If you do not have an account please register and login to post comments. Users can access their older comments by logging into their accounts on Vuukle.

END

Downloaded from **crackIAS.com**

© **Zuccess App** by crackIAS.com

CrackIAS