

Government fixes prices of 33 essential drugs

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The government has capped prices of 11 essential drugs while those of 22 such medicines have been revised, including those used for treatment of cancer, HIV, bacterial infections and acid reflux, among others.

"National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has fixed/revised ceiling prices of 33 scheduled formulations of Schedule-I under Drugs (Price Control) Amendment Order, 2017, in related notification/order dated January 24," NPPA said.

The ceiling prices of 11 scheduled formulations have been notified while ceiling prices of 22 scheduled formulations have been revised, it added.

As stipulated under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO), 2013, NPPA fixes ceiling prices of essential medicines of Schedule-I.

In respect of medicines not under price control, manufacturers are allowed to increase the maximum retail price by 10 per cent annually.

The calculation for essential drugs is based on the simple average of all medicines in a particular therapeutic segment with sales of more than one



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per cent.

The government had notified the DPCO 2013, which covers 680 formulations, with effect from May 15, 2014, replacing the 1995 order that regulated prices of only 74 bulk drugs.

Set up in 1997, NPPA has been entrusted with the task of fixation/revision of prices of pharma products, enforcement of provisions of DPCO, and monitoring of prices of controlled and decontrolled drugs.