

NPPA ups packaging cost

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NPPA will also cut prices of several drugs, including that of Novalgin in the tablet form, he said. The price of 500-mg Novalgin tablet is likely to be cut by 3.7% from the current ₹7.28 for a strip of 10 tablets.

Shares of Cipla Ltd ended at ₹363.70 on the National Stock Exchange, up 1.1% from close Thursday, while Aventis Pharma Ltd ended at ₹1,861.70, up 0.7%.

The authority has already approved the prices in respect of 59 formulations. In addition, the prices of 37 formulation packs based on pro-rata pricing have been fixed," the official, familiar

with the development, said.

The regulator has taken the decisions at a recent meeting this month.

NPPA has also decided to cut prices of 24 imported drugs marketed by companies such as Novartis, Sanofi Aventis, Pfizer, Eli-Lilly, GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals and Abbott, the official said.

"The price cut in case of imported drugs will be in the range of 1.5-3.7%. All these imported cases included insulin-based formulation, vitamin formulation, methyl prednisolone formulation and calcipotriol and betamethasone skin ointment," he said.

According to the official, domestic drug makers who are likely to be affected by the regulator's price changes this time include Torrent Pharma Ltd, Cadila Healthcare Ltd, J.B. Chemicals, Aventis Pharma Ltd and Win Medicare.

Among multinationals, Eli-Lilly, Pfizer, GlaxoSmithKline Pharma, Abbott and Novartis are likely to be hit by the upcoming price changes.

The formulations, for which NPPA may revise prices, include pain killers, anti-allergy, vitamins, insulin and drugs used to treat ulcers, etc.

NPPA may also hike the price

of aspirin by 5.5% factoring in the rise in market prices of major raw materials such as phenol and acetic anhydride, the official said.

"The impact on increase on the finished formulations containing bulk drug aspirin will be around 2%," he said.

The NPPA directly fixes prices of 74 bulk drugs used as raw material to make medicines. It also sets prices of all medicines containing one or more of these bulk drugs.

In all other medicines, the regulator allows drug firms to increase prices up to 10% annually.

NPPA