

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2894  
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2015  
GENERIC MEDICINES IN CGHS  
Nishank Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal

**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

- (a) the procedure of procurement of life saving drugs in Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) and the steps taken by the Government to ensure quality in transparency in purchasing and monitoring of these drugs;
- (b) whether the Government has issued instructions/directions to the doctors of CGHS hospitals/dispensaries to prescribe/ issue only generic medicines to the patients, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the list of medicines/formulary including generic medicines as well as those listed under the essential medicines category prescribed for CGHS beneficiaries;
- (d) whether CGHS dispensaries can issue branded/other medicines to CGHS beneficiaries, if medicines prescribed by specialist/Government hospitals are not mentioned in the list;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor along with the remedial measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (f) whether the Government has revised/ proposes to revise the guidelines regarding issue of medicines to CGHS beneficiaries suffering from chronic diseases upto three months at a time and if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)

- (a): Anti-Cancer and other related medicines, also called Life-saving medicines are procured on case to case basis on L1 rate that has been fixed after inviting sealed quotations from the manufacturer/ importer.
- (b): There are no specific orders for issue of only generic medicines. While it is the endeavour of the Government to encourage the use of generic medicines, the present CGHS formulary includes 622 branded medicines in addition to 1447 generic medicines.
- (c): The list of the medicines under CGHS formulary and the list of life saving drugs is enclosed at Annexure.
- (d) & (e): If a branded medicine is advised by a Specialist, it is issued by the brand name/ generic name available at the CGHS Wellness Centre, provided the medicine has the same constitution and therapeutic efficiency. In case the medicine by any other brand/generic version is not available at CGHS Wellness Centre it is indented by the same brand name through the Authorized Local chemist and supplied to the beneficiary.
- (f): Medicines are already issued for upto three months at a time in case of chronic diseases.