**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**
**MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**LOK SABHA**
**STARRED QUESTION NO. 222**
**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 6TH MARCH, 2020**
**WHO GUIDELINES ON MEDICAL PRESCRIPTIONS**

***222. DR. MUNJPARA MAHENDRABHAI KALUBHAI:**

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

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to encourage doctors to follow the prescription writing practices as per the 'World Health Organization Guidelines on Good Prescribing';

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken to prevent/mitigate the medication errors made by the doctors?

**ANSWER**
**THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**
**(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)**

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.222* FOR 6TH MARCH, 2020**

(a) to (c) Health is a State subject. However, Clause 1.5 of Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002 prescribes that every physician should prescribe drugs with generic names legibly and preferably in capital letters and he/she shall ensure that there is a rational prescription and use of drug. Further, Medical Council of India(MCI) has issued Circular dated 21.04.2017 vide which all the Registered Medical Practitioners have been directed to comply with the aforesaid provisions. The MCI or the appropriate State Medical Councils have been empowered to take disciplinary action against a doctor for violation of the provision of the aforesaid Regulations. As and when complaints are received against the violation of code of ethics for doctors, such complaints are referred by MCI to the concerned State Medical Councils where the doctors/medical practitioners are registered.

States have been advised to ensure prescription of generic drugs and conduct regular prescription audits in public health facilities. Practice of prescription audit is one of the prerequisites for getting certified under the National Quality Assurance Standards(NQAS).

Standard Treatment Guidelines (STGs) for provision of proper health care for 227 medical conditions belonging to 21 clinical specialties have been issued by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India and the same are available in public domain. Standard Treatment Guidelines have also been prescribed under various National Health Programs.

Under Clinical Establishments Act 2010 and Rules thereunder, for registration and continuation, the Clinical Establishments are required to comply to the Standard Treatment Guidelines, as may be issued by Central Government or State Government, in the States/UTs, where the said Act is applicable. As on date the Clinical Establishments Act 2010, is applicable in 11 States and 5 Union Territories namely Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Mizoram, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu , Lakshadweep and Puducherry. 17 States and Union Territories have their own Acts for regulating clinical establishments. The implementation of the Act is within the remit of respective State/UT Government.

Under National Health Mission (NHM), support is provided for provision of essential generic drugs free of cost in public health facilities. The support is not only for drugs but also for various components necessary for effective implementation of Free Drug Service Initiative viz. strengthening/setting up robust systems of procurement, quality assurance, IT backed supply chain management systems like Drugs and Vaccines Distribution Management Systems (DVDMS) developed by CDAC, warehousing, prescription audit, grievance redressal, Information, Education and Communication (IEC), training.

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