



# MEDICINE INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 4

Oct - Dec 2019

## IN THIS ISSUE

Editors' Desk	1	Websites of Interest	3
Quote	1	News	4
Courses	2	Conferences	4
Opportunities	2	Alert	5
Focus	2	Resources	5
Health Days	3	Gallery	6
Did You Know?	3	Announcement	7
List of Approved Drugs	3		

## Editors' Desk

The Government of India has notified "The National Medical Commission Act, 2019" which paves the way for replacing Medical Council of India with the National Medical Commission. The Act aims to bring complete transformation in medical education and service. The Section 32 of the Act has provision of Community Health Providers. The Community Health Providers are non-medical professionals who are connected with modern scientific medicine who would receive limited licence to practice medicine at mid-level. Though rules are yet to be framed regarding the qualifications and other details of Community Health Providers, this provision is a progressive step in a country like ours where there are chronic shortage of qualified MBBS doctors. In addition to shortage in terms of Doctor: Population ratio, there are disparity between the rural and urban areas. These mid-level service providers would be empowered to prescribe specified medicine independently in primary and preventive healthcare, but in cases other than primary and preventive healthcare, they would be permitted to prescribe medicine only under the supervision of medical practitioners. The pharmacists are perhaps most qualified

persons for shouldering this responsibility. The Governments of Odisha and Kerala have already sanctioned limited permission to dispense drugs without the prescription in health facilities.

The recent reported cases of Diphtheria in Tamil Nadu and other states once again brought our attention of need of complete immunization. Though the children have been immunized against Diphtheria in early phases of life, many of them missed the booster doses. The National Immunization Schedule prescribes 2nd Booster Dose of DPT Vaccine at the age of 5 to 6 years. Up to 90% of global diphtheria cases are reported in India. The resurgence of measles in USA and other parts of the world showed that complete vaccination is a must to get relief of preventable diseases. The pharmacy students who are providing patient counselling at one to one basis are in unique position on sensitizing parents on vaccination need of their children.

Three important festivals fall during this quarter: Vijaya Dasami (or, Durga puja), Kali Puja (or, Diwali) and Christmas. We convey our heartiest greetings to all our readers in these occasions.

## Editorial Board

### Chief Editor:

Dr. Prabal Kumar Manna

### Executive Editor:

Dr. Guru Prasad Mohanta

### Production Executives:

Dr. S. Selvamuthukumar

Dr. S. Parimalakrishnan

### Team Members:

Dr. C. K. Dhanapal

Dr. S. Madhusudhan

Dr. R. T. Saravanakumar

Dr. G. Gopalakrishnan

Mr. P. Mahendrarvarman

Dr. G. Veeramani

Dr. K. Saravanan

Dr. V. P. Maheshkumar

## Contact Us

The Editors,  
Medicine Information Newsletter,  
Department of Pharmacy,  
Annamalai University,  
Annamalai Nagar - 608 002,  
Tamil Nadu, India.  
Email: dicpharmd@gmail.com

## Quote

The church and the law deal with yesterdays of life, the medicine deals with the tomorrows.

William J. Maya, 1931

# Courses

## Rx Solution eLearning Courses:

RxSolution is specifically designed to manage medicines and health supplies from start to finish - from the planning stages of procurement to the moment the product is given to the patient. Users, typically pharmacists or clinicians, record information on pharmaceutical products, suppliers, prescribers, dispensers, and patients into the system, and can also manage and track stock transactions and product usage. More details are available at: <https://leadernet.org/rxsolution/>

## An introduction to evidence – based medicine and systematic reviews:

New online learning is now freely available to anyone who is interested in an introduction to Evidence Based Medicine, Cochrane evidence and how to use it. Written from the perspective of a healthcare consumer and co-created with patients and carers, this learning resource is perfectly pitched to give anyone an introduction to Evidence Based Medicine and Systematic Reviews. It will be especially valuable to the growing community of patients, carers and family members who work alongside researchers to co-create Cochrane evidence. The online modules can be accessed with a free Cochrane account at <https://training.cochrane.org/essentials>

# Opportunities

## Building research partnerships to disseminate social innovation in health in low- and middle-income countries:

Social Innovation in Health Initiative (SIHI) is a network of individuals and institutions sharing a common goal to advance social innovation in health through research and to transform health care delivery. The purpose of this call is to build upon the work of the research country hubs and support research institutions in other low- and middle-income countries to embed social innovation in their programmes. This will be done through creating research partnerships in low- and middle-income countries between (i) research institutions having the capacity and experience in advancing social innovation in health through advocacy, research and capacity strengthening and (ii) research institutions focusing on infectious diseases of poverty that are willing to engage and embed this approach in their organizations. These research partnerships will actively enhance and facilitate the networking, sharing and learning among SIHI partners. More details are available at: <https://www.who.int/tdr/grants/calls/building-research-partnerships/en/>

## Call for pool of experts

QUAMED is a north-south network aiming to contribute to improve access to quality medicines at LMICs. QUAMED organises audits pharmaceutical distributors and international procurement agencies against the WHO quality standards. Now QUAMED opens a call for pool of experts. It is looking for GDP/GSP, MQAS and GMP auditors of pharmaceutical products with experience in working in developing countries and/or NGOs. Interested persons are advised to send the CV to [a.nebot@quamed.org](mailto:a.nebot@quamed.org). More details are available at: <https://www.quamed.org>.

## Focus: Pretomanid – New TB Drug

- Availability: Tablet - 200 mg.
- Pretomanid Tablet is an antimycobacterial indicated as part of a combination regimen with bedaquiline and linezolid for the treatment of adults with pulmonary extensively drug resistant (XDR), treatment-intolerant or nonresponsive multidrug-resistant (MDR) tuberculosis (TB).
- Pretomanid Tablets are not indicated for patients with: Drug-sensitive (DS) tuberculosis; Latent infection due to Mycobacterium tuberculosis; Extra-pulmonary infection due to Mycobacterium tuberculosis; MDR-TB that is not treatment-intolerant or nonresponsive to standard therapy.
- Dosage regimen and Administration:
  - Pretomanid Tablet 200 mg orally once daily for 26 weeks. Swallow Pretomanid Tablets whole with water.
  - Bedaquiline 400 mg orally once daily for 2 weeks followed by 200 mg 3 times per week, with at least 48 hours between doses, for 24 weeks for a total of 26 weeks
  - Linezolid (1,200 mg daily orally for up to 26 weeks, with dose adjustments for known linezolid toxicities).
  - To be taken orally with food.
- Common Adverse Effects: peripheral neuropathy, acne, anaemia, nausea, vomiting, headache, increased transaminases, dyspepsia, decreased appetite, rash, pruritus, abdominal pain, pleuritic pain, increased gamma-glutamyltransferase, lower respiratory tract infection, hyperamylasemia, haemoptysis, back pain, cough, visual impairment, hypoglycaemia, abnormal loss of weight, and diarrhoea.
- Contraindication: As used in combination, contraindicated in patients for whom bedaquiline and/or linezolid are contraindicated.

## Important Health Days

October	Breast Cancer Awareness Month
October 1	International Day of Elderly World Vegetarian day
October 2	National Anti-Drug Addiction Day
First Wednesday of October	World Cerebral Palsy Day
October 9	World Sight Day
October 10	World Mental Health Day
October 12	World Arthritis Day
October 15	Global Hand Washing Day
October 16	World Food Day
October 17	World Trauma Day
October 20	World Osteoporosis Day
October 21	World Iodine Deficiency Day
October 24	World Polio Day
October 26	World Obesity Day
October 29	World Stroke Day
October 30	World Thrift Day
November 10	World Immunization Day
November 12	World Pneumonia Day
November 14	World Diabetes Day
November 17	World Epilepsy Day
November 19	World COPD Day World Toilet day
November 16-22	World Antibiotic Awareness Week
December 1	World AIDS Day
December 2	National Pollution Prevention Day
December 3	International Day of Persons with Disabilities
December 9	World Patient Safety Day
December 12	Universal Health Coverage Day

### List of new drugs approved in the year 2019 till date (JULY to SEPTEMBER)

S.No.	Name of drug	Indication	Date of issue
1	Rifapentine 150mg film coated tablet	"For the treatment of latent tuberculosis infection in adults and children 2 years and older who are at high risk of progression to tuberculosis disease.	08.07.2019
2	FDC of Bictegravir, Emtricitabine and Tenofovir alafenamide 50mg/200mg/25mg tablets	For the treatment of human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1) infection in adults who have no antiretroviral treatment history.	09.08.2019
3	Levomilnacipran ER 2capsules 20mg/40mg/80mg/120mg	For treatment of major depressive disorder	13.08.2019
4	Bosutinib bulk and Bosutinib tablets 100mg, 400mg, 500mg	For the treatment of adult patients with newly diagnosed chronic phase Philadelphia chromosome-positive chronic myelogenous leukemia and chronic phase, accelerated phase or blast phase with resistance or intolerance to prior therapy.	09.09.2019
5	Safinamide methanesulphonate bulk drug and Safinamide tablets 50, 100mg	For the treatment of adult patients with idiopathic Parkinson's disease (PD) as add-on therapy to a stable dose of Levodopa (Ldopa) alone.	09.09.2019

## Did You Know?

The word 'Vaccine' was derived from the Latin for cowpox 'Vaccinia'. Edward Jenner who successfully tested the folk belief that an attack of the relatively innocuous and localised disease, cowpox, provided immunity from the disfiguring and often fatal smallpox. This test resulted in the development of world's first vaccine in 1798 and Jenner was credited for it.

## Websites of Interest

**Cancer Institute NSW:** The website provides guidelines on safe handling and waste management of hazardous drugs. The details can be accessed at: <https://www.eviq.org.au/clinical-resources/administration-of-antineoplastic-drugs/188-safe-handling-and-waste-management-of-hazardous>

**History of Health Sciences Super Course:** This is a project designed to deliver the scientific lectures on History of Health Sciences to physicians, public health specialists and the scientists across the world. These important resources can be accessed at: <http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/History/history.htm>

**Health Education Library for People [HELP]:** The HELP is a consumer education centre intends to empower people by providing them with the information they need to promote their health and prevent and treat their medical problems in partnership with their doctor. This is a free public library and can be accessed at: <https://www.thebestmedicalcare.com/>

# NEWS

**New treatment for complicated urinary tract and complicated intra-abdominal infections:** Three drug combination injection containing imipenem, cilastatin and relebactam (Recarbrio) is recently approved by US FDA for the treatment of complicated urinary tract infection and complicated intra-abdominal infections. The use of Recarbrio be reserved for situations when there are limited or no alternative antibacterial drugs for treating a patient's infection. The most common adverse reactions observed in patients treated with Recarbrio included nausea, diarrhea, headache, fever and increased liver enzymes.

**Government Bans Colistin's Use in Food producing Animals:** The Government of India has banned the manufacture, sale and distribution of colistin, an antibiotic, and its formulations for use in food producing animals, poultry, aqua farming and animal feed supplements. The use of colistin in these cases is likely cause risk to human beings. The label of the container should mention the words "Not to be used in food producing animals, poultry, aqua farming and in animal feed supplements". This is also required to be mentioned in package inserts and promotion literatures. This antibiotic is recommended as a last resort for the treatment of patients suffering from infections caused by resistant bacteria.

**New Drug for Highly Drug Resistant Forms of Tuberculosis:** Pretomanid, a novel compound, is recently approved by USFDA for treating some of the most drug resistant forms of Tuberculosis. The three drug resistant regimen: [BPAL: bedaquiline + pretomanid + high-dose linezolid) is approved for adult patients with XDR, treatment-intolerant, or nonresponsive multidrug-resistant pulmonary TB. This new regimen could dramatically shorten treatment length to between six and nine months, greatly reduce the number of pills required, and help to increase XDR-TB cure rates from the abysmal historical figure of 34%. India will perhaps plan for its own clinical trial.

**WHO Academy for innovative learning:** WHO proposes to establish the WHO Academy with an aim to reach millions of people with innovative learning via state of art digital learning experience platform at a campus in Lyon and embedded in six WHO regions. The academy will bring together adult learning sciences, behavioural sciences, and cutting edge learning technology such as Artificial Intelligence and Virtual Reality with WHO's norms, standards and evidence to deliver high impact accredited and tailored multilingual learning to meet diverse needs.

## Conferences

**3rd International Congress of Health Workforce Education & Research:** The Congress is scheduled to take place in Barcelona, Spain between Wednesday 2nd and Friday 4th September 2020. The International Network for Health Workforce Education holds its International Congress once a year and is the prime meeting place for international health workforce educators, researchers and policy makers. The theme of the congress is Inter-professional Education. The call for abstract deadline is 3rd February 2020. More details are available at: <https://inhwe.org/barcelona-2020>

**6Th Annual Meeting of Japan Society of Clinical Safety (6th JPSCS):** The 6th JPSCS Annual Meeting covers a wide range of safety topics, such as clinical safety (patient safety, medication safety, medical device safety), infectious disease outbreak, and other related safety subjects. The meeting consists of an international session with English presentation as well as a domestic session with Japanese presentation. The event is scheduled on 7th and 8th March 2020. The last date for abstract submission is 31st October 2019. More details are available at: <http://jpscscs.org/6thJPSCS/en/>

**Conference on 'People Improving the Use of Medicines: What We Know and Don't Know!':** The conference plans to reinvigorate the movement for rational use of medicines by sharing new knowledge and experiences on how to improve medicines use and agreeing on a plan for future ISIUM (International Society to improve the use of medicines) work. The conference is scheduled on Jan 27-29, 2020 at Bangkok. The expression of interest is to be registered by sending e-mail to: [bangkok.2020@isium.org](mailto:bangkok.2020@isium.org)

**Sixth International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP):** The sixth ICEP will take place in Thailand in February 1- 4, 2021. Held biennially since 2009, the ICFP serves as a strategic inflection point for the family planning and reproductive health community worldwide. More details are available at: <https://icfp2021.org>

# Alerts

**Certain Statins have links to myasthenia gravis:** The analysis of WHO database, VigiBase, showed that 4.2% of all myasthenia gravis (MG) cases were suspected to have induced by statin use. Statin use was also found to have association with ocular MG. The analysis included simvastatin, atorvastatin, Rosuvastatin, pravastatin, lovastatin and fluvastatin. Simvastatin and atorvastatin were most frequently associated. Though the association between statins and MG is weak, the researchers advised that the statin withdrawal must be considered in statin exposed patients presenting with an induction or exacerbation of MG.

**Boxed Warning for Tofacitinib:** The USFDA has recently approved a boxed warning about the increased risk of blood clots and of death with 10 mg twice daily dose to tofacitinib, drug for ulcerative colitis. Its use has been restricted to certain patients who are not treated effectively or who experience serious side effects with certain other medicines. Patients are advised to stop taking this medicine and seek medical advice if they experience any unusual symptoms like sudden shortness of breath, chest pain that worsen with breathing, swelling of a leg or arm and leg pain or tenderness, or red coloured skin in the painful or swollen leg or arm. The physicians are advised to reserve tofacitinib to treat ulcerative colitis for patients who have failed or do not tolerate tumour necrosis factor blockers.

**Faecal Microbiota for Transplantation (FMT) has link with multi drug resistant infection:** USFDA confirms the risk of bacterial infection caused by multi drug resistant organisms (MDROs) that have occurred due to transfer of a MDRO from use of Investigational Faecal Microbiota for Transplantation (FMD). Investigational FMT is meant for treating *C. difficile*. Patients considering FMT to treat *C. difficile* infection should speak to their health care provider to understand the potential risks associated with the product's use. Healthcare providers must obtain adequate consent for the use of FMT from the patient or his or her legally authorized representative.

## Resources

**Smartphone App to Train Health Workers to Save Lives:** A research group based at KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Kenya and Oxford University has developed a free smartphone app for training health workers called "LIFE". The Life-saving Instruction for Emergencies (LIFE) smartphone app uses interactive 3D simulations of life-threatening emergencies to train healthcare workers to save lives. The simulations take place in a virtual 3D hospital where users have to find the correct pieces of medical equipment to manage an emergency and then use this equipment to carry out a sequence of life-saving steps. The app is available free at [www.oxlifeproject.org](http://www.oxlifeproject.org) or the Google Play Store <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=uk.ac.ox.NDM.LIFE>.

**Guidelines for Malaria Vector Control:** Vector Control is a vital component of malaria prevention, control and elimination strategies. The World Health Organization has developed the guidelines which can be accessed or downloaded from: <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/310862/9789241550499-eng.pdf?ua=1>

**Family Planning:** A Global Handbook for Providers: This book is published jointly by the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and the World Health Organization (WHO), with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and its Knowledge for Health

(K4Health) Project. The book can be downloaded from: <http://www.fphandbook.org/sites/default/files/global-handbook-2018-full-web.pdf>

**How to guide for NTD programmes:** This toolkit provides step-by-step guidance to Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) programme managers and partners on how to engage and work collaboratively with the WASH community to improve delivery of water, sanitation and hygiene services to underserved population affected by many neglected tropical diseases. The toolkit is based on real-life programme experience, which users can match to their needs and local context. It includes a series of tools to help build multi-sectoral partnerships, mobilize resources, and design, implement and evaluate interventions. This can be accessed at:

[https://www.who.int/water\\_sanitation\\_health/diseases-risks/diseases/wash-health-toolkit/en/](https://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/diseases-risks/diseases/wash-health-toolkit/en/)

### DISCLAIMER:

The Newsletter intends to provide updated and reliable information on medicines and other related issues in an attempt to equip healthcare professionals to take informed decision in recommending medicines to the patients. However, they are encouraged to validate the contents. None of the people associated with the publication of the Newsletter nor the University shall be responsible for any liability for any damage incurred as a result of use of contents of this publication. The brand names of medicines, if mentioned, are for illustration only and the Newsletter does not endorse them.

# Gallery



**Inaugural Function of AICTE and DST – PURSE sponsored National Conference on ‘Advances in Pharmacy Practices: from Drug Discovery to Patient Safety’ organized by Department of Pharmacy on 23rd August 2019.**



**MoU is signed between Department of Pharmacy and MAHSA University, Malaysia, on 23rd July 2019 for collaborative research, training, and exchange of students and faculty.**

# Gallery



**One Student – One Plant Drive: ISPOR Student Chapter on 13th August 2019**



**Drug Abuse Awareness Campaign at Government Girls School, Chidambaram, on 11th July 2019.**



**PharmD Students providing Breast Feeding Counselling on 5th August 2019 as a part of Breast Feeding Awareness Week**

## Announcement

### **Faculty Development Programme in Pharmaceutical Sciences at Annamalai University**

The Department of Pharmacy of Annamalai University is organizing AICTE sponsored two weeks Faculty Development Program on “Recent Advances in Pharmaceutical Sciences: From Theory to Practice” during 2nd to 15th December 2019. The eminent resource persons have given consent to share their expertise during the programme.

The Contact Person: Dr. S. Parimalakrishnan, Associate Professor and Coordinator,

E. mail ID: [audopaictfdp2019@gmail.com](mailto:audopaictfdp2019@gmail.com). Contact No.: +919025211742; +918667619440.