

## Minutes of meeting dt 15 August 2023

Online meeting of MLSI was organised on Tuesday 15 th August 2023 at 8.50 pm.

It was attended by

Dr. Sanjay Gupte

Dr. Nitin Dhande

Dr. Lalit Kumar

Dr. Manish Nigam

Dr. Kunal Sethi

Dr. Rajeev Joshi

Dr. Devraj Raichur

Dr. Abhay Shahapurkar

Dr. Narsimha Rao

IMA CG

Dr. Rahul Agrawal

Dr. Ashish Khatod

Apologies for missing the names of attendees who joined late, stayed for a while and left in between. Following points were discussed during meeting

Regarding letter to PMO for grievances on recently notified EMRB regulations, Dr. Rajeev Joshi explained the reason behind writing a letter to PMO that the subject matter is related to Health, Home, IT, ministries. Dr. Sanjay Gupte opined that before taking any step we should spread awareness about this subject in the medical fraternity, should communicate with other medical associations and should hear their feedback. Dr. Devraj Raichur was of the opinion that we should directly approach the Supreme Court as early as possible otherwise the Court will ask us about the reason for delay. Dr. Rajeev Joshi said that first of all we should finalise a letter and should send it to PMO and simultaneously we should start communicating with other associations and can send another letter afterwards. It is a prerequisite to exhaust available remedies before approaching the Supreme Court.

Dr. Narsimha Rao suggested that during communicating with authorities we should pretend that we are acting for patients welfare and worried about grievances of patients to which Dr. Sanjay Gupte agreed. Dr. Rajeev Joshi requested Dr. Narsimha Rao to prepare a DRAFT in the form of a letter to which Dr. Narsimha Rao agreed and requested to give some time. Dr. Joshi said if it is going to take time, we will add it in the next letter.

IMA CG asked whether NMC has jurisdiction over this subject because this subject comes under the drugs and cosmetics department? Dr. Nigam replied that earlier MCI had also issued some guidelines on this subject so NMC definitely has jurisdiction over this subject. Dr. Raichur asked whether it is legal to prevent RMP from engaging with pharma companies in conducting CME? Promotion in developing scientific temper is prescribed as one of the directive principles of state policy. Dr. Abhay said that the object of promotion of generic medicines is cost cutting.

Dr. Gupte said that we should understand the background of this promotion. The government is procuring generic drugs in bulk at very low cost from the same pharma company which is selling branded drugs at high cost. And promoting the

sale of drugs through PM Jan aushadhi kendra. Se should not and can not take an absolute opposite stand against generic drugs.

Dr. Joshi reminded the members about a notification issued by FDA Maharashtra few years ago in which it is prescribed that RMP should write both brand and generic name of drug with a foot note that " patient can buy generic drug or substitute of brand as per his choice" but later on this notification was withdrawn by FDA department probably in the pressure of pharma companies lobby. He added that he had developed and sold 300 hundred software online for ePrescribing at that time.

Dr. Sinha said that the government can not control and pressurise pharma companies' lobby so they are twisting the hand of doctors which is easy for it.

Dr. Agrawal said that there should be a list of drugs in two categories. In the first category such drugs should be listed which should be prescribed in generic name and in second category such drugs should be listed which should be prescribed in brand name. Dr. Joshi requested Dr. Agrawal to prepare such list, to which Dr. Agrawal agreed.

Dr. Joshi read the draft of the letter to be sent to the PMO and invited suggestions from attendees. Dr. Dhande suggested to replace word doctor with medical professionals on which Dr. Raichur advised to replace it with RMP. He further advised to add that the liability of payment for treatment done during emergency should be of government otherwise this will be violation of fundamental right of right to practise profession of RMP.

Dr. Joshi requested to submit their inputs on this Letter till tomorrow midnight through a link which he is going to share in WhatsApp group after which he will finalise the letter and will send it to PMO after taking ascent of the managing committee.

Dr. Lalit Kumar advised that we should communicate with IMA on this subject on which Dr. Joshi replied that we are going to organise the next meeting with various stakeholders and requested him as being expertise in the field of advocacy to take this task.

Dr. Rao advised to add disclaimer in prescription that prescribing doctor will not be responsible for quality of generic drugs. Dr. Raichur advised to discuss consent in the upcoming meeting to which all agreed.

Meeting ended at 10 pm with a resolution to meet on Tuesday 22 August to discuss this issue in detail with various stakeholder associations.

Dr. Ashish Khatod

Dr. Rajeev Joshi