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Government Caps Trade Margins on Cancer Drugs

The government decided to cap trade margins on non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs at 30%.

A policy measure aimed at reducing the prices of cancer medicines and improving affordability for patients.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- The government capped trade margins on **non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs** at **30%**.
- This decision is expected to reduce the prices of several cancer medicines by up to **70%**.
- Patients are estimated to save ₹**2,500 crore** **annually** due to this price cap.
- The primary aim is to curb **excessive mark-ups** in the distribution chain and improve **affordability** of cancer treatment.
- This policy also ensures the continued **availability** of these essential medicines.
- This move extends the government's earlier trade-margin cap which applied to only **select oncology drugs**.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

The **National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority** (**NPPA**) is responsible for fixing and revising the prices of controlled bulk drugs and formulations.

NPPA was constituted in **1997** as an attached office of the **Department of Pharmaceuticals**, **Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers**.

The **Drugs (Prices Control) Order** (**DPCO**) is issued by the government under the **Essential Commodities Act, 1955**, to regulate drug prices.

The **National List of Essential Medicines** (**NLEM**) includes drugs that are considered essential for public health and are subject to **price control**.

The government also promotes affordable **generic medicines** through the **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana** (**PMBJP**) scheme.

The **Department of Pharmaceuticals** was established in **2008** under the **Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers**.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Government capped trade margins on non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs at 30% to reduce prices and save patients ₹2,500 crore annually.

Syllabus Relevance: High

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