

Date: 18th February 2021

To,
Vice Chairman,
ICMR- DHR
New Delhi

Subject: Submission on the revision of NLEM 2015

Dear Sir/ Ma'am,
Warm Greetings!

I am writing this on behalf of Health Parliament, India's Think Tank which works on evidence-based policymaking and reforms. At Health Parliament, we have released two reports- the impact of COVID-19 on the Mental Wellbeing of Students and the COVID vaccine acceptance in our country.

We wish to submit the following for your kind consideration:

1. ICMR/MOH could develop a mobile-based application for keeping a record of the usage, dose, procurement, and supply of the essential medicines, linking this usage of antimicrobials with Anti-Microbial Resistance, which is on the rise.
 - The app could provide real-time monitoring of medicine stock, supply, procurement, and prescription.
 - Could issue alerts for medicines approaching the expiry date.
 - Technology could enable prediction based on data analytics, which could lead to demand-based supplies. This could also lead to FIFO and inter-facility transfer as per demands and reduce medicine wastage and expiry.
2. Technology-enabled oversight mechanism to keep a check on antimicrobial resistance and unauthorized selling or buying of drugs.
3. Due to the proliferation of online pharmacies, the very definition of distributor and retailer and the delivery of medicines through a pharmacist has undergone a paradigm change. Hence, the same should be factored in the NLEM.
4. Surprise/ random audits, especially for the small pharmacies to tally the essential medicines sold against authentic prescriptions.

Once again, we wish to put on record our appreciation with thanks for giving Health Parliament an opportunity to present our views. We remain at your disposal for any details or clarification on this submission.

Health Parliament

E: contact@digitalassociates.health W: <https://parliament.health/>

I was keen to be present during this online consultation; however, I will miss this opportunity due to a surgery scheduled for tomorrow.

We at the Health Parliament look forward to engaging with ICMR on other stakeholder consultations in the future.

We hope that you will find our submissions helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Himadri Bisht

On behalf of

Health Parliament