

Dear Mr. Rajat Khosla,
Giving herewith our suggestions on the Draft Guidelines for Pharmaceutical Companies
circulated by Mr. Paul Hunt, Special Rapporteur.

Regards,
Amitava Guha
Community Development Medicinal Unit
47/1B Garcha Road, Kolkata-700 019
Phone:91-33-24755668

The following may be included in the Guideline under specific subheads.

1. Introductory Note:

Production and sales of medicine ca not be viewed same as that of any other commodities. Its primary aim should be keeping the society free from diseases and provide therapeutic assistance for cure or for palliative measures of a diseased person. Therefore, pharmaceutical industry should remain high above reckless profit making, monopolisation of market , dumping the nation with unwanted or injurious medicines and deceiving the healthcare profession with misinformation and inducement.

2. Management:

The company should uphold the basic human rights of its employees and should provide all social security benefits to them.
The company should maintain high safety procedures inside manufacturing areas and also should adopt environment safety measures.

3. Public policy influence, advocacy, and lobbying:

The company should not directly of involving itself with any group lobby, campaign or pressurise to change any domestic law or policy affecting access to medicines to the people.

4. Patent and Licensing: [This chapter is very well drafted]

The company should not prevent easy ingress or exgress of essential medicines in any country.
The company should not be involved in any trade embargo or sanctions as far as access to essential medicines are concerned.
The company should comply with the government's policy for use of generic medicines.

5. Pricing:

The company should voluntarily declare its profit margin by regularly submitting cost data of each medicine to the government agencies and for public consumption.
The company should not indulge any undeclared incentive to the trade. Any benefits of discount, if the company intends to provide should reach to the end users.

6. Ethical Promotion:

All promotional expensed should be disclosed by the company for public information.

The company should have a separate grievance settlement set up to redress complaints on quality of its medicines and on wrong or misleading promotional activity at any level. The company should publish at least once a year giving the list of grievances it has received and the redressal made thereof.

7. Association of pharmaceutical companies:

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7. Association of pharmaceutical companies:

The pharmaceutical Association should prepare a policy for continuous public awareness programme. For such awareness work the Association should involve CSOs and inform detail of its activities to public.