Stents inclusion in essential list leaves industry divided

New Delhi, Jul 22 (PTI) The governments decision to include stents in the national list of essential medicines has elicited contradictory views with apex healthcare body NATHEALTH raising concerns about it, while the Association of Indian Medical Devices Industry (AiMed) supported the move.

Bringing stents under the ambit of a pharmaceutical style pricing control regime will restrict their inflow and usage into India, and thus, negatively impact patient choice and outcomes, NATHEALTH said. It also contradicts governments intent to separate medical devices from drugs, it added. "The government?s move to include stents in the NLEM is not consistent with the stated direction of separating medical devices from drugs and will limit choice for patients in selecting the most appropriate option in complicated cardiac procedures," NATHEALTH President Rahul Khosla said. The Government earlier this week had added coronary stents to the National List of Essential Medicines 2015 (NLEM 2015). Expressing concern, NATHEALTH Secretary General Anjan Bose said: "We have been constantly engaging with several government agencies to explain that due to their uniqueness, medical devices cannot be treated through policies and frameworks made for pharmaceutical products." On the other hand, AiMeD -- which represents domestic medical devices manufacturers -- supported the governments move saying it was a long awaited move that will bring relief for many poor patients for whom the cost of affording a drug eluting stent had become prohibitive.
"A correction and price regulation in this market was long overdue and AiMeD supports governments move to finally put a cap on the MRPs which shall ensure fair practices in this important sector which was plagued with exorbitant prices charged from ignorant helpless patients," AiMeD Forum Coordinator Rajiv Nath said. PTI

This is unedited, unformatted feed from the Press Trust of India wire.

http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/melania-trump-plagiarism-memes/1/721794.html
Forum raises serious concern about inclusion of stents in NLEM

Umesh Isalkar | TNN | Jul 28, 2016, 07.25 PM IST

PUNE: NATHEALTH, a unique forum comprising of both healthcare providers and medical technology companies, have strongly opposed inclusion of cardiac stents in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM).

The forum has underlined that the inclusion is contradictory to the government's recently expressed desire to separate medical devices from drugs by proposing a new law, which is proposed to be tabled in the upcoming winter session.

The government recently added coronary stents to the National List of Essential Medicines 2015 (NLEM 2015). This will effectively bring the product under price control.
"The government's move to include stents in the NLEM is not consistent with the stated direction of separating medical devices from drugs and will limit choice for patients in selecting the most appropriate option in complicated cardiac procedures," said NATHEALTH's president, Rahul Khosla.

Sharing the view, Anjan Bose, secretary general of NATHEALTH said, "We have been constantly engaging with several government agencies to explain that due to their uniqueness, medical devices cannot be treated through policies and frameworks made for pharmaceutical products. However, the notification on 19th July shows that we still have some work to do."

"Medical procedures in India are among the most affordable in the world, which is a combination of cost of devices and services. Any notification should be considered only if it can bring down the overall cost of treatment for the patient without denying them the options to avail the treatment of their choice," said Milan Rao, chairman, Medical Technology Forum of NATHEALTH.

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Press Trust of India | New Delhi July 22, 2016 Last Updated at 18:57 IST

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It also contradicts government's intent to separate medical devices from drugs, it added.

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Expressing concern, NATHEALTH Secretary General Anjan Bose said: "We have been constantly engaging with several government agencies to explain that due to their uniqueness, medical devices cannot be treated through policies and frameworks made for pharmaceutical products."
On the other hand, AiMeD -- which represents domestic medical devices manufacturers -- supported the government's move saying it was a long awaited move that will bring relief for many poor patients for whom the cost of affording a drug eluting stent had become prohibitive.

"A correction and price regulation in this market was long overdue and AiMeD supports government's move to finally put a cap on the MRP's which shall ensure fair practices in this important sector which was plagued with exorbitant prices charged from ignorant helpless patients," AiMeD Forum Coordinator Rajiv Nath said.

1 in 4 Indians at the risk of premature death from non-communicable diseases: WHO

Ibtimes.Co.In

The burden of non-communicable diseases (NCD) such as cancer, diabetes and heart ailments in India has reached such an extent that one in four Indians (25 percent) is now at a risk of prematurely dying from such illnesses, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said.

Globally, the premature deaths due to NCDs constituted 70 percent of mortalities in 2015 as compared to 42 percent in 2012, the WHO’s recent report on NCDs said.

The rising number of NCD cases in India has made it all the more difficult for the country to achieve its sustainable development goal of reducing premature deaths due to such diseases by 30 percent by 2030.

A recent report by Deloitte India and Healthcare Federation of India (NAT Health) has said that NCDs like diabetes, heart diseases and respiratory diseases are expected to comprise more than 75 percent of India’s disease burden by 2025, compared to 45 percent in 2010.
India, known as the diabetes capital of the world, had 46 million diabetics in 2015 compared to 38 million diabetics in 2010.

The number of patients suffering from coronary heart disease increased to 62 million in 2015 from 47 million in 2010.

Around 23 million patients suffered from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease — the second leading cause of death in India — in 2015 compared to 21 million in 2010.

The WHO has said that some of the economically low-ranking countries of the world have shown the way when it comes to battling the NCDs.

“Countries, including some of the poorest, are showing it is feasible to make progress and reduce premature deaths from NCDs. But that progress, particularly in low and middle-income countries, is insufficient and uneven,” Oleg Chestnov, assistant director-general at WHO said.

Higher taxes on tobacco and alcohol, according to the world health agency, has also become the potent way to tackle the burden of chronic illnesses.

However, countries like China and India, according to the United Nations, would have to step up their efforts to meet the global targets of reducing diseases burden.

Concern raised over inclusion of stents in NLEM

July 25, 2016  Diet Fitness  Views:6 views

New Delhi: The Union government recently added coronary stents to the national list of essential medicines (NLEM) 2015, effectively bringing them under price control.

NATHEALTH, which is a unique forum comprising of both Healthcare Providers and Medical Technology Companies is strongly opposing this move, which is contradictory to the Government’s recently expressed desire to separate medical devices from drugs by proposing a new act that is proposed to be tabled in the upcoming Winter Session.

Additionally, the Committee of experts constituted by MoHFW, in its report of Ministry of Health has indicated its desire to bring other cardiology products under NLEM as well. The reason cited for this action is the Government’s desire to improve the number of percutaneous cardiac interventions (Angioplasty).

A Coronary Stent is an essential device for ensuring optimal outcomes for coronary / cardiac procedures. Selecting the appropriate stent for each procedure should be the choice of patients and medical practitioners in order to ensure such optimal outcomes. Bringing stents under the ambit of a pharmaceutical-style pricing control regimewill restrict their inflow and usage into India, and thus, negatively impact patient choice and outcomes.

Additionally, NATHEALTH also feels this will impact India’s Industry friendly image globally and adversely impact the ‘Make in India’ efforts in the medical technology domain.

“The Government’s move to include stents in the NLEM is not consistent with the stated direction of separating medical devices from drugs and will limit choice for patients in selecting the most appropriate option in complicated cardiac procedures,” said Rahul Khosla, NATHEALTH’s President.
“We have been constantly engaging with several Government Agencies to explain that due to their uniqueness, medical devices cannot be treated through policies and frameworks made for pharmaceutical products. However the notification on 19th July shows that we still have some work to do,” said Anjan Bose, Secretary General – NATHEALTH.

“Medical procedures in India are among the most affordable in the world, which is a combination of cost of devices and services. Any notification should be considered only if it can bring down the overall cost of treatment for the patient without denying them the options to avail the treatment of their choice. Additionally, such notifications significantly impact the ‘Make in India’ attractiveness of the country,” said Milan Rao, Chairman, Medical Technology Forum

(ANI)

http://www.drlalthadani.in/concern-raised-over-inclusion-of-stents-in-nlem/
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Mr. Anjan Bose, Secretary General, NATHEALTH

https://www.healthcareexecutive.in/injecting-dignity-into-nursing/mr-anjan-bose-secretary-general-nathealth/
1 in 4 Indians at the risk of premature death from non-communicable diseases: WHO

- July 19, 2016 11:51 IST
By Bismah Malik

One in four Indians is at the risk of dying prematurely from non-communicable diseases as heart disease, diabetes and cancer a report released by WHO said. In Picture: Doctor K.M. Cherian (R) speaks with patient Dilli Babu, 11, in the isolation room at a Madras hospital in southern India on June 18. Cherian completed a successful heart transplant operation on Babu on June 16. Babu is India’s youngest recipient of a donor heart.Reuters

The burden of non-communicable diseases (NCD) such as cancer, diabetes and heart ailments in India has reached such an extent that one in four Indians (25 percent) is now at a risk of prematurely dying from such illnesses, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said.
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http://www.ibtimes.co.in/1-4-indians-risk-premature-death-non-communicable-diseases-who-687120
The government's decision to include stents in the national list of essential medicines has elicited contradictory views with apex healthcare body NATHEALTH raising concerns about it, while the Association of Indian Medical Devices Industry (AiMed) supported the move.

Bringing stents under the ambit of a pharmaceutical style pricing control regime will restrict their inflow and usage into India, and thus, negatively impact patient choice and outcomes, NATHEALTH said.

It also contradicts government's intent to separate medical devices from drugs, it added.

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Expressing concern, NATHEALTH Secretary General Anjan Bose said: "We have been constantly engaging with several government agencies to explain that due to their uniqueness, medical devices cannot be treated through policies and frameworks made for pharmaceutical products."

On the other hand, AiMed -- which represents domestic medical devices
manufacturers -- supported the government's move saying it was a long awaited move that will bring relief for many poor patients for whom the cost of affording a drug eluting stent had become prohibitive.

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http://in.shafaqna.com/EN/02765309
Industry bodies oppose government's move to include stents in list of essential medicine

TNH | Jul 22, 2016, 06.12 PM IST

NEW DELHI:
NATHEALTH, a national federation of healthcare industry firms, has expressed concerns over the government's recent decision to include coronary stents in this year's National List of Essential Medicine (NLEM).

Coronary stents are medical devices that allow surgeons obtain optimal results in coronary and cardiac procedures. NATHEALTH maintained that imposing a pharmaceutical-style pricing control on stents would reduce their import and use in India, negatively impacting patients' and medical practitioners' ability to choose appropriate stents for their procedures.
Federation's secretary general, Anjan Bose said it had been, "constantly engaging with several government agencies to explain that due to their uniqueness, medical devices cannot be treated through policies and frameworks made for pharmaceutical products."

"Medical procedures in India are among the most affordable in the world, which is a combination of cost of devices and services. Any notification should be considered only if it can bring down the overall cost of treatment for the patient without denying them the options to avail the treatment of their choice," said Milind Rao, the chairman of the organisation's Medical Technology Forum.

The move would also negatively impact the medical technology domain of the government's Make In India campaign, as well as India's reputation for industry-friendliness, the organisation said.

Medical devices sector body AdvaMed and industry chamber CII have also hit out at the government's decision saying it will not help improve access to medical devices for patients as it will not impact the overall procedure cost.

The government's step is detrimental to the nascent medical device industry in India and is also contradictory to its recent efforts to press forward with legislation that would create separate and appropriate legislations for medical devices, the two industry bodies said.
"Singular focus on capping prices of stents by way of their inclusion in NLEM (national list of essential medicines) will not help improve access to medical devices for patients, as it will not impact the overall procedure cost and limit the introduction of innovative products," Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed) said in a statement.

Echoing sentiments, CII said: "Given the clear distinction between medical devices and drug formulations, the methodology for price control of drug formulations cannot be applied to medical devices."

A price control on the nascent Medical Devices sector at this stage does not bode well in creating a conducive environment for FDI, realising Make in India or investment in R&D, both of which are required for growth of this sector, it added.

(With inputs from agencies)

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NATHEALTH, which is a unique forum comprising of both Healthcare Providers and Medical Technology Companies is strongly opposing this move, which is contradictory to the Government’s recently expressed desire to separate medical devices from drugs by proposing a new act that is proposed to be tabled in the upcoming Winter Session.

Additionally, the Committee of experts constituted by MoHFW, in its report of Ministry of Health has indicated its desire to bring other cardiology products under NLEM as well. The reason cited for this action is the Government’s desire to improve the number of percutaneous cardiac interventions (Angioplasty).

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Industry bodies oppose government's move to include stents in list of essential medicine

TNN | Jul 22, 2016, 06.12 PM IST

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The move would also negatively impact the medical technology domain of the government's Make In India campaign, as well as India's reputation for industry-friendliness, the organisation said.

Medical devices sector body AdvaMed and industry chamber CII have also hit out at the government's decision saying it will not help improve access to medical devices for patients as it will not impact the overall procedure cost.

The government's step is detrimental to the nascent medical device industry in India and is also contradictory to its recent efforts to press forward with legislation that would create separate and appropriate legislations for medical devices, the two industry bodies said.
"Singular focus on capping prices of stents by way of their inclusion in NLEM (national list of essential medicines) will not help improve access to medical devices for patients, as it will not impact the overall procedure cost and limit the introduction of innovative products," Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed) said in a statement.

Echoing sentiments, CII said: "Given the clear distinction between medical devices and drug formulations, the methodology for price control of drug formulations cannot be applied to medical devices."

A price control on the nascent Medical Devices sector at this stage does not bode well in creating a conducive environment for FDI, realising Make in India or investment in R&D, both of which are required for growth of this sector, it added.

(With inputs from agencies)

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PTI

13 hours ago

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(With inputs from agencies)

NATHEALTH expresses concern over inclusion of coronary stents in NLEM

Our Bureau, Mumbai, Tuesday, July 26, 2016, 08:00 Hrs [IST]

NATHEALTH, a forum comprising of both healthcare providers and medical technology companies, have taken strong exception to the inclusion of coronary stents in the National List of Essential Medicines 2015 (NLEM 2015) by the Union health ministry recently.

A coronary stent is an essential device for ensuring optimal outcomes for coronary/cardiac procedures. Selecting the appropriate stent for each procedure should be the choice of patients and medical practitioners in order to ensure such optimal outcomes. Bringing stents under the ambit of a pharmaceutical-style pricing control regime will restrict their inflow and usage into India, and thus, negatively impact patient choice and outcomes, NATHEALTH said.

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The inclusion of coronary stents in the NLEM is contradictory to the government’s recently expressed desire to separate medical devices from drugs by proposing a new Act which is proposed to be tabled in the upcoming Winter Session. The government recently added coronary stents to the NLEM 2015. This will effectively bring the product under price control, NATHEALTH said.

Additionally, the committee of experts constituted by the health ministry, in its report of ministry of health, has indicated its desire to bring other cardiology products under NLEM as well. The reason cited for this action is the government’s desire to improve the number of percutaneous cardiac interventions (angioplasty).

Additionally, NATHEALTH also feels this will impact India’s industry-friendly image globally and adversely
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“We have been constantly engaging with several Government Agencies to explain that due to their uniqueness, medical devices cannot be treated through policies and frameworks made for pharmaceutical products. However the notification on July 19th shows that we still have some work to do,” said Anjan Bose, secretary general – NATHEALTH.

http://www.pharmabiz.com/PrintArticle.aspx?aid=96485&sid=1
नई दिल्ली। सरकार का स्टेट को अनिवार्य दवाओं की राष्ट्रीय सूची में डालने का जहां स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं से जुड़ी इकाइयों के शीर्ष संगठन नेटहेल्थ ने इसको लेकर चिंता जताई है वहीं एसोसिएशन ऑफ मेडिकल डिवाइस इंडस्ट्री एएआईएमईड ने इस कदम का स्वागत किया है।
नैटेल्थल्थ ने कहा कि स्टेंट को औषधि कीमत नियंत्रण व्यवस्था के अंतर्गत लाया जाता है, इससे इसका भारत में आपूर्ति तथा उपयोग बाधित होगी और मरीजों के समक्ष उपलब्ध विकल्प पर नकारात्मक प्रभाव पड़ेगा।

संगठन ने कहा कि यह चिकित्सा उपकरणों को औषधि से अलग करने के सरकार के इरादे के बिना उलट है।

नैटेल्थल्थ के अध्यक्ष राहुल खोसला ने कहा कि सरकार का स्टेंट को एनएलईएम में लाने का फैसला चिकित्सा उपकरणों को औषधि से अलग करने के इरादे के विपरीत है और इससे मरीजों के लिए जटिल इलाज संबंधी प्रक्रियाओं के दौरान उपयुक्त विकल्प के चुनाव में मुश्किल होगी।

उल्लेखनीय है कि इस सप्ताह की शुरुआत में सरकार ने कोरोनार स्टेंट को अनवाय डवाओं की राष्ट्रीय सूची एनएलईएम में शामिल करने का फैसला किया। वहीं दूसरी तरफ एआईएमईडी सरकार के कदम का समर्थन करते हुए कहा है कि इसका लंबे समय से इंतजार था। इससे कई गरीब मरीजों को राहत मिलेगी।

एआईएमईडी फोरम के संयोजनक राजीव नाथ ने कहा कि इस बाजार में सुधार तथा कीमत नियमन का लंबे समय से इंतजार था और संगठन सरकार के कदम का समर्थन करता है...।

Concern raised over inclusion of stents in NLEM

July 25, 2016 Health, News 0 Comments

New Delhi: The Union government recently added coronary stents to the national list of essential medicines (NLEM) 2015, effectively bringing them under price control.

NATHEALTH, which is a unique forum comprising of both Healthcare Providers and Medical Technology Companies is strongly opposing this move, which is contradictory to the Government’s recently expressed desire to separate medical devices from drugs by proposing a new act that is proposed to be tabled in the upcoming Winter Session.

Additionally, the Committee of experts constituted by MoHFW, in its report of Ministry of Health has indicated its desire to bring other cardiology products under NLEM as well. The reason cited for this action is the Government’s desire to improve the number of percutaneous cardiac interventions (Angioplasty).

A Coronary Stent is an essential device for ensuring optimal outcomes for coronary / cardiac procedures. Selecting the appropriate stent for each procedure should be the choice of patients and medical practitioners in order to ensure such optimal outcomes. Bringing stents under the ambit of a pharmaceutical-style pricing control regimewill restrict their inflow and usage into India, and thus, negatively impact patient choice and outcomes.

Additionally, NATHEALTH also feels this will impact India’s Industry friendly image globally and adversely impact the ‘Make in India’ efforts in the medical technology domain.
“The Government’s move to include stents in the NLEM is not consistent with the stated direction of separating medical devices from drugs and will limit choice for patients in selecting the most appropriate option in complicated cardiac procedures,” said Rahul Khosla, NATHEALTH’s President.

“We have been constantly engaging with several Government Agencies to explain that due to their uniqueness, medical devices cannot be treated through policies and frameworks made for pharmaceutical products. However the notification on 19th July shows that we still have some work to do,” said Anjan Bose, Secretary General – NATHEALTH.

“Medical procedures in India are among the most affordable in the world, which is a combination of cost of devices and services. Any notification should be considered only if it can bring down the overall cost of treatment for the patient without denying them the options to avail the treatment of their choice. Additionally, such notifications significantly impact the ‘Make in India’ attractiveness of the country,” said Milan Rao, Chairman, Medical Technology Forum

(ANI)

MRP for coronary stents to be announced in three months

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN

RELIEF FOR YOUR ARTERIES
Price regularisation of stents likely to benefit middle class

WHAT IS A STENT
- A stent is a tiny expandable metal scaffold inserted in narrowed or weakened arteries
- The procedure of placing the stent in an artery is called angioplasty
- The cost of angioplasty is around Rs.200,000 to Rs. 250,000 on an average in a private hospital, depending on the complexity of the case, number of stents and types used
- A bare metal stent on an average costs about Rs.10,000 to Rs. 20,000, while a drug eluting stent (DES) ranges between Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 80,000

DISEASE BURDEN
- According to the sub-committee report, around 25 per cent deaths in India are attributed to cardiovascular disease (CVD). Coronary artery disease is the most common CVD accounting for 90-95 per cent of all such cases and deaths.
- In India, only about 3 out of 1,000 coronary heart disease patients are treated with angioplasty, compared to 32 in the U.S.

WHAT DOES NLEM MEAN
Medicines and devices listed in the NLEM (National List of Essential Medicines) must be sold at the price fixed by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority, while those in the non-scheduled list are allowed a maximum annual price hike of 10 per cent.
The medical device has been added to NLEM recently, bringing it under price control

Within three months, the general public can expect the government to announce the maximum retail price for coronary stents, which has recently been added to the national list of essential medicines (NLEM) 2015, effectively bringing them under price control.

While patients, doctors and Indian-stent manufactures have welcomed the move, others aren’t celebrating the announcement.

Recommendations

Speaking about the move, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, K.L. Sharma explained that the move has been based on recommendations which noted that all types of stents, including the latest biodegradable stents should be put on the list.

Sub-committee

“The sub-committee has submitted its report and the government has accepted its recommendations. We have now sent this to the Department of Pharmaceuticals and the process of price fixation will take its natural course. We are hopeful that the maximum retail price will be fixed and announced in the next three months. Processes are already underway to ensure that a transparent and fair mechanism is adopted for price ceiling, which will benefit the poorest of the poor and make good quality stents available at the best price,” Mr. Sharma added.

The sub-committee of expert cardiologists was constituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in October 2015 under the chairmanship of Professor Y.K. Gupta, head, department of pharmacology, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), to examine the issues relating to the essentiality of coronary stents and recommend whether it should be included in the NLEM.

Medicines and devices listed in the NLEM are sold at the price fixed by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), while those in the non-scheduled list are allowed a maximum annual price hike of 10 per cent.

Dr. Ripen Gupta, Interventional Cardiologist, Fortis Hospital, Vasant Kunj, said: “Of course we welcome the move as the cost benefit goes directly to my patients and I am hoping that more people will be able to afford this advancement in technology. Price control will ensure that base price is uniform across government, semi-private and private facilities. It will also
bring in much needed transparency in the system. Drugs outside price control can be sold at prices set by the manufacturer, which is governed by profit making and market forces.”

“We appreciate the government move to include stents in NLEM, which will ensure more transparency and accessibility of these essential life-saving devices for the patients. However, we request NPPA to follow a diligent process to arrive at a fair MRP considering the fact that unlike pharmaceuticals, every Class III medical device like Drug Eluting Stents (DES) needs huge investment on R&D and clinical trials and an ad-hoc decision may be detrimental to the Industry,” said Gurmit Singh Chugh, managing director, Translumina Therapeutics, DES, manufacturer in India.

Ganesh Sabat of Sahajanand Medical Technologies Pvt. Ltd, which manufactures stents, said: “We welcome the move as this would mean that this treatment can be made available to all, including the middle class and the poor. Local manufacturing means that we are offering stents at 1/5 of the cost.”

However, the medical devices industry said the inclusion of stents in the NLEM and the consequent price cap could stop manufacturers from introducing technologically advanced stents in India.

Nathhealth, a forum comprising both Healthcare Providers and Medical Technology Companies, has strongly opposed the inclusion of Stents in NLEM.

“Affordable”

“Medical procedures in India are among the most affordable in the world, which is a combination of cost of devices and services. Any notification should be considered only if it can bring down the overall cost of treatment for the patient without denying them the options to avail the treatment of their choice. Additionally, such notifications significantly impact the ‘Make in India’ attractiveness of the country,” said Mr. Milan Rao, chairman, medical technology forum, Nathhealth.

Himanshu Baid, the chairman of the Confederation of Indian Industry, medical technology division, said: “A price control on the nascent medical devices sector at this stage does not bode well in creating a conducive environment for FDI.”
CITIES » DELHI

NEW DELHI, July 29, 2016

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Industry bodies oppose government's move to include stents in list of essential medicine

TNN | Jul 22, 2016, 06.12 PM IST

NEW DELHI: NATHEALTH, a national federation of healthcare industry firms, has expressed concerns over the government's recent decision to include coronary stents in this year's National List of Essential Medicine (NLEM).

Coronary stents are medical devices that allow surgeons obtain optimal results in coronary and cardiac procedures. NATHEALTH maintained that imposing a pharmaceutical-style pricing control on stents would reduce their import and use in India, negatively impacting patients' and medical
practitioners' ability to choose appropriate stents for their procedures.

Federation's secretary general, Anjan Bose said it had been, "constantly engaging with several government agencies to explain that due to their uniqueness, medical devices cannot be treated through policies and frameworks made for pharmaceutical products."

"Medical procedures in India are among the most affordable in the world, which is a combination of cost of devices and services. Any notification should be considered only if it can bring down the overall cost of treatment for the patient without denying them the options to avail the treatment of their choice," said Milind Rao, the chairman of the organisation's Medical Technology Forum.

The move would also negatively impact the medical technology domain of the government's Make In India campaign, as well as India's reputation for industry-friendliness, the organisation said.

Medical devices sector body AdvaMed and industry chamber CII have also hit out at the government's decision saying it will not help improve access to medical devices for patients as it will not impact the overall procedure cost.

The government's step is detrimental to the nascent medical device industry in India and is also contradictory to its recent efforts to press forward with
legislation that would create separate and appropriate legislations for medical devices, the two industry bodies said.

"Singular focus on capping prices of stents by way of their inclusion in NLEM (national list of essential medicines) will not help improve access to medical devices for patients, as it will not impact the overall procedure cost and limit the introduction of innovative products," Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed) said in a statement.

Echoing sentiments, CII said: "Given the clear distinction between medical devices and drug formulations, the methodology for price control of drug formulations cannot be applied to medical devices."

A price control on the nascent Medical Devices sector at this stage does not bode well in creating a conducive environment for FDI, realising Make in India or investment in R&D, both of which are required for growth of this sector, it added.

(With inputs from agencies)

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