



OFFICE OF THE
INDIAN DRUG USERS' FORUM
NAGALAND: KOHIMA

Ref: IDUF/E/M

Date: 26-07-2012

To,
Shri Gulam Nabi Azad
Honorable Minister of Health and Family Welfare
Government of India

Sub: Listing of Pegylated Interferon alpha 2a and 2b in India's List on Essential medicines 2011.

Dear Sir,

We, the Indian Drug users Forum (IDUF), are a group of individuals having formed ourselves as a national organization contributing to the national health response and control of blood borne infections such as HIV and viral hepatitis. We also envisage highlighting at the national level the issues that People who use drugs faces in the country.

We wanted to apprise you of our concerns and suggestions for your consideration with regards to the medicines listed in the National essential medicines list of India 2011.

As you are aware hepatitis infection, especially hepatitis C, affect people who inject drugs disproportionately. Pegylated interferon (alpha 2a and 2b) is considered as the standard of care for treating this infection.

Because of the existing patent in the country and the resulting high cost, people who use drugs suffering from these infections have not been able to afford the treatment required. As a result, many have lost their lives due to liver related complications. We also note that your Ministry does not have information on the infection and the resulting disease burden as our country lacks the disease registry, as also noted by your Ministry's Parliamentary Standing committee in its 57th report.

As again recommended the committee, the current high cost alone should not be a factor to refuse treatment of hepatitis C to a person and efforts to boost local production and to exercise health safeguards in the patent law to reduce prices.

As such and realizing the importance to make pegylated interferon alpha 2a and 2b affordable, we request you to relook and consider including both Pegylated Interferon alpha 2a and 2b in the national essential medicines list.

We sincerely hope that you will consider our suggestion and we shall make ourselves available should you wish to discuss our suggestions in person and also hear our concerns.

With Sincere regards,


(Abou Mere) President

President
Indian Drug Users Forum
Nagaland: Kohima


(Simon Beddoe) Secretary

Secretary
Indian Drug Users' Forum
Nagaland: Kohima.

Copy for information and necessary action to:

1. Hon. Minister - Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
2. Hon Minister - Finance & Home Affairs
3. Secretary - National Planning Commission of India
4. Prime Minister's Office (PMO)
5. HD, Dept. of Pharmacology & Dept. Of Medicine AIIMS
6. Country Director - World Health Organization (WHO), India

Address: Red cross building PR hills
Raj bhavan Road Kohima
Email: iduf.eb@gmail.com
Mobile no: +919436011066/+91