



Disease Management Association of India

(Organization with a Special Consultative Status with the United Nations – ECOSOC)

February 18, 2021

To,

Vice Chairman,
ICMR- DHR
New Delhi

**Subject: Submission on Stakeholders National Consultation meeting for
revision of NLEM 2015**

Dear Sir/ Ma'am,

Greetings from Disease Management Association of India (DMAI)!

We appreciate the ICMR for giving us the opportunity through this interactive discussion on the important topic of revision of NLEM 2015. DMAI is a not-for-profit organization working in the area of health reforms since 2009. In 2015, the United Nations- Economic and Social Council conferred a special consultative in recognition of our contribution to healthcare reforms.

We submit the following for your kind perusal & consideration:

- For patients- based on the treatment costs for chronic diseases and surgical interventions, we need to consider the cost of medicines from affordability perspective.
- Also, we should move to a reference pricing model under which drugs for the purpose of the treatment of a specific disease/ indication should be priced in a pre-determined price range.
- Since the government is pushing towards the PM-JAY, the definition of NLEM should be broadened to include all the medicines prescribed under PM-JAY should be brought under NLEM (NLEM should be redefined). Keeping in view, the PM-JAY is funded by tax-payers.

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-2-

- Generics should be given priority in all cases. The government should come up with its own app that gives a choice to a person of a molecule versus brand or a brand versus molecule.
- A dedicated fund should be created for specialized treatment like cancer. Because even for a middle-income family, it is very difficult to bear the cost of cancer treatment as some medicines are prohibitively expensive and so are the tests.

We hope that the above points will be considered and we remain at your disposal for any further details/clarifications/consultations.

With warm regards,

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