

F.No.28025/52/2025-SAS.II/EMR
Government of India
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Directorate General of Health Services
Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi-110011
....

Dated: 3rd October, 2025

To,
The Director Health Services,
All States/Union Territories.

Sub: Advisory on Rational Use of Cough Syrups in Paediatric Population - reg.

Sir/Madam,

In our continuous efforts to ensure rational drug use and patient safety in paediatric care, this advisory reiterates the judicious prescribing and dispensing of cough syrups for children. Most acute cough illnesses in children are self-limiting and often resolve without pharmacological intervention.

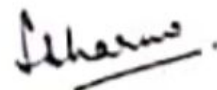
2. Cough and cold medications should not be prescribed or dispensed to children under 2 years. These are generally not recommended for ages below 5 years and above that, any use should follow careful clinical evaluation with close supervision and strict adherence to appropriate dosing, the shortest effective duration and avoiding multiple drugs combinations. Further, the public may also be sensitized regarding adherence to prescription by the Doctors.

3. Non-pharmacological measures, including adequate hydration, rest, supportive measures should be the first-line approach.

4. All healthcare facilities and clinical establishments must ensure procurement and dispensing of products manufactured under Good Manufacturing Practices and formulated with pharmaceutical-grade excipients. Sensitization of prescribers and dispensers across public and private sectors is essential to uphold these standards of care.

5. It is requested that the all State/UT Health Departments, District Health Authorities, and all Clinical Establishments/healthcare facilities under your jurisdiction should implement and disseminate this advisory across government dispensaries, PHCs, CHCs, district hospitals, and medical institutions.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. Sunita Sharma)
DGHS

Copy to:

1. Drug Controller General of India, CDSCO
2. All State Drug Controllers
3. PSO to Secretary (Health & Family Welfare), MoHFW, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi.
4. AS & MD, MoHFW, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi.
5. All Institution Heads of Central Government Hospitals
6. Directors of all AIIMS
7. Directors of PGI Chandigarh, JIPMER Puducherry.
8. All Regional Directors, RoHFW.