

**Preparation of National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) 2015: Role of
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Essential Medicines are those that satisfy the priority health care needs of the population. The list is made with consideration to disease prevalence, efficacy, safety and comparative cost-effectiveness of the medicines. Such medicines are intended to be available in adequate amounts, in appropriate dosage forms and strengths with assured quality.

The first National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) of India was released in 1996. This list was revised in 2003. In 2010, the list was again revised by a committee constituted by MOHFW, GOI under the chairmanship of Dr YK Gupta, Professor & Head, Department of Pharmacology, AIIMS. The revision process included a series of core committee and expert group meetings held at AIIMS and coordinated by the Department of Pharmacology. Several faculty members and residents from the department contributed. The NLEM 2011 may be accessed through: <http://www.cdsco.nic.in/writereaddata/National%20List%20of%20Essential%20Medicine-%20final%20copy.pdf>

In 2014, Core-Committee was constituted by MOHFW, GOI, under the chairmanship of Dr VMKatoch, the then Secretary, Department of Health Research (DHR) and Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), and Dr YK Gupta, Professor and Head, Department of Pharmacology, AIIMS as the Vice Chairman. Dr Pooja Gupta, Assistant Professor, Pharmacology, AIIMS was nominated as the Coordinator.

The revision process included a 3-day workshop to prepare a source document; 6 consultation meetings in different cities (Mumbai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Guwahati, Bengaluru, Delhi); 10 consultation-cum-compilation meetings in Delhi; and Several working group meetings at AIIMS, Delhi. More than 400 experts, 30 CDSCO officials and representatives from 49 Industries & NGOs participated in the process. All these meetings were organized and coordinated by Department of Pharmacology, AIIMS with support from IPC, Ghaziabad. Faculty members and residents from the department worked hard for this in various capacities.

From NLEM 2011, 70 medicines were deleted and 106 medicines were added and NLEM 2015 contains a total of 376 medicines. The report was submitted by the Chairman Dr VM Katoch and Vice Chairman Dr YK Gupta to the Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. The ministry accepted the report and NLEM 2015 *in toto*. The report and the NLEM 2015 may be accessed at: <http://cdsco.nic.in/WriteReadData/NLEM-2015/Recommendations.pdf>

Inclusion of Coronary Stent in NLEM 2015

In the interim, while the NLEM 2015 was being compiled, a subcommittee of expert cardiologists was formed by MOHFW, GOI under the chairmanship of Prof YK Gupta to examine the issue of essentiality of coronary stents in India. The subcommittee had a wider consultation with experts and stakeholders at AIIMS, Delhi and also several internal deliberations. These meetings were also organized by the Department of Pharmacology. The report of the Core Committee on the matter was submitted by Dr YK Gupta to the Secretary, MOHFW in April 2016.