

HOMOEOPATHIC PHARMACOPOEIA COMMITTEE

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The Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Committee was constituted in September 1962 on the recommendations of the Homoeopathic Advisory Committee and Homoeopathic Sub-Committee of the Drugs Technical Advisory Board on the question of control of Homoeopathic drugs under Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules 1945. The committee has experts from Chemistry, Botany besides manufacturers of homoeopathic medicines and eminent homoeopaths as well as officials who are concerned with the work of testing and research in drugs. The term of the Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Committee was initially for 3 years which was extended from time to time. The Chairman of the Committee has the powers to form Sub-Committee whenever required and to co-opt experts from outside on Sub-Committee.

The functions of the Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Committee are (i) to prepare Pharmacopoeia of Homoeopathic drugs whose therapeutic usefulness have been proved on the lines of the American, German and British Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeiae; (ii) to lay down principles and standards for the preparation of homoeopathic drugs; (iii) to lay down test of identity, quality and purity; (iv) such other matters as are incidental and necessary for the preparation of a Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia; and (v) to prepare Homoeopathic Pharmaceutical Codex.

Achievements of the HPC: The Homoeopathic drugs are available in the market in mother tincture form and in potencies. The priority of the HPC is to fix standards upto the level of mother tincture or equivalent. From 1962 onwards the Committee has finalised and recommended standards for Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia of India.

Seven volumes of Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia of India have been published and volume VIII is under print. 74 meetings of the Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Committee have been held so far.

Enforcement of Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia of India: Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia of India have become official in terms of Schedule-II of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules thereunder.

The details of Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia of India are as under:

	No. of monographs
Volume I (1971)	180
Volume II (1974)	100
Volume III (1978)	105
Volume IV (1984)	107
Volume V (1987)	114
Volume VI (1990)	104
Volume VII (1999)	105
Volume VIII (2000)	under print

Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeial Laboratory, Ghaziabad which is an apex drug testing and standard setting laboratory is assisting the Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Committee in laying down the standards of Homoeopathic medicines/drugs.

Amendment in Schedule 'K' of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 (Inclusion of some Homoeopathic medicines to be sold through licensed pharmacies)

Homoeopathy has emerged as one of the leading systems of therapeutics due to its accessibility & efficacy throughout the world. Among the different complementary and alternative systems categorised by the House of Lords Sub-Committee of UK Parliament, Homoeopathy along with some others was put in category *Group One* as being professionally organised therapy. For the treatment of common ailments Homoeopathy is very efficacious and it is inexpensive too. Till now Homoeopathic medicines were available through Homoeopathic pharmacy outlets only which are few in number. Physicians as well as patients/public have faced acute problems in obtaining even those medicines which are used for the treatment of common ailments due to they being available only in few outlets. To ensure easy availability of Homoeopathic medicines through more and more outlets, it was considered necessary to make suitable provision in the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945.

The Government on the advice of Drug Technical Advisory Board has amended Schedule 'K' of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 to facilitate the availability of certain Homoeopathic medicines through licensed pharmacies. This Notification will facilitate the licensing authorities to promote sale of listed Homoeopathic

medicines through licensed pharmacies and would greatly facilitate users in obtaining these medicines easily.

Some of the homoeopathic manufacturers have already initiated to prepare and pack those medicines which are listed in Schedule 'K' of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 as per provisions and instructions laid down their for supply to licensed pharmacies/pharmacy outlets for sale. These medicines will be available throughout the country very soon and there will not be any need to have a prescription for getting these medicines. These medicines have been intended to take care of the common ailments like abdominal pain/colic, acidity, acne and boils, backache, bleeding, body pain, open injuries, common cold, constipation, cough, diarrhoea, dysentery, ear ache, flu, food poisoning, indigestion, various kinds of menstrual related ailments, piles, sciatica, travel sickness, urinary complaints, urticaria, burns and wounds, and etc. Several organisations/associations, manufacturing industries and pharmacists and profession have acknowledged and thanks to Govt. for making such facilities of availability of homoeopathic medicines for urban as well as rural people.

The easy accessibility of medicines may now be treated as one more way of helping people to look after their own health as a first line of defence.

Homoeopathic medicines included in Schedule K of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 and notified in the Gazette of India dated the 28th March, 2001 is enclosed.

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| (i) Arnica montana | (xvii) Chamomilla |
| (ii) Aconitum napellus | (xviii) Drosera rotundifolia |
| (iii) Arsenicum album | (xix) Hypericum perforatum |
| (iv) Aloe socotrina | (xx) Hepar sulphuris |
| (v) Apis mellifica | (xxi) Ipecacuanha |
| (vi) Allium cepa | (xxii) Ledum palustre |
| (vii) Bryonia alba | (xxiii) Millefolium |
| (viii) Borax | (xxiv) Mercurius solubillis |
| (ix) Belladonna | (xxv) Nux vomica |
| (x) Cantharis | (xxvi) Pulsatilla nigricans |
| (xi) Carbo vegetabilis | (xxvii) Podophyllum peltatum |
| (xii) Cina | (xxviii) Plantago major |
| (xiii) Cofocynthis | (xxix) Rhus toxicodendron |
| (xiv) Calendula officinalis | (xxx) Ruta graveolens |
| (xv) Caulophyllum thalictroides | (xxxi) Symphytum officinalis |
| (xvi) Cocculus indicus | (xxxii) Veratrum album |

In Schedule K, after item number 30 and the entries relating thereto, the following shall be inserted, namely:

Class of Drugs	Extent and Conditions of Exemption
31. The following Homoeopathic Medicines, namely:-	The provisions of chapter IV of the Act and the rules made thereunder which require them to be covered with a sale licence in form 20-C subject to the following conditions:-
(a) Arnica montana Hair Oil	
(b) Homoeopathic ointments, each in 15 gm tube:	
(i) Arnica montana	(i) These homoeopathic medicines shall be sold in the original sealed small quantity packings of the licensed manufacturers.
(ii) Calendula officinalis	
(iii) Cantharis	
(iv) Rhus toxicodendron	
(c) Biochemic tissue remedies in tablet forms in generic names only each in 20 gm. Packing in 3X and 6X trituration	(ii) These medicines may be stocked and sold by retail dealers of medicines licensed under rule 61
(i) Calcarea phosphorica	(iii) These medicines shall be stored separately from other allopathic drugs;
(ii) Calcarea sulphurica	
(iii) Ferrum phosphoricum	(iv) These medicines shall be purchased from a manufacturer or a dealer licensed under these Rules.
(iv) Kali muriaticum	(v) The purchase and sale records of these medicines shall be maintained by the dealer for a minimum period of three years.
(v) Kali phosphoricum	(iv) These medicines shall be labelled in generic/pharmacopoeial names only.
(vi) Kali sulphuricum	
(vii) Magnesium phosphoricum	
(viii) Magnesia sulphurica	
(ix) Natrum muriaticum	
(x) Natrum phosphoricum	
(xi) Natrum sulphuricum	
(xii) Silicea	