

Soaring COVID-19 cases - Drug Inspectors to monitor stocks of Remdesivir

By TIOL News Service

NEW DELHI, APR 12, 2021: WITH

the Corona cases soaring, India has put embargo on export of Remdesivir and its API till situation improves.

Seven Indian companies are producing Injection Remdesivir under voluntary licensing agreement with M/s. Gilead Sciences, USA. They have an installed capacity of about 30.80 lakh units per month.

The Government has also taken the following steps to ensure easy access of hospital and patients to Remdesivir:

1. All domestic manufactures of Remdesivir have been advised to display on their website, details of their stockists/distributors to facilitate access to the drug.
2. Drugs inspectors and other officers have been directed to verify stocks and check their malpractices and also take other effective actions to curb hoarding and black marketing. The State Health Secretaries will review this with the Drug Inspectors of the respective States/UTs.
3. The Department of Pharmaceuticals has been in contact with the domestic manufacturers to ramp up the production of Remdesivir.

The Government of India has also advised the States that the extant "National Clinical Management Protocol for COVID-19", which is based on evidence, has been developed after many interactions by Committee of Experts, and is the guiding document for treatment of Covid-19 patients. In the Protocol, Remdesivir is listed as an Investigational Therapy, i.e. where informed and shared decision making is essential, besides taking note of contra indications mentioned in the detailed guidelines.

The States and UTs have been advised that these steps should again be communicated to all hospitals, both in public and private sector, and compliance monitored.