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Blood and blood products: Ethical and legal aspects in India

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Human blood is covered under the definition of 'Drug' under Sec. 3(b) of Drugs & Cosmetics Act. Therefore, blood banks and blood transfusion service are regulated under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act and rules thereunder. In order to improve the standards of Blood and its components, the Government of India has formulated a comprehensive legislation to ensure better quality control system on collection, storage, testing and distribution of blood and its components. Part X B of Drugs & Cosmetics Rules prescribes the requirements for the collection, storage, processing and distribution of whole human blood, human blood components by blood banks and manufacture of blood products. PART XII B to the Schedule F of Drugs & Cosmetics Rules defines the requirements for the functioning and operation of a blood bank and/or for preparation of blood components, whereas PART XII C prescribes the requirements for manufacture of blood products. In 2002, Government of India published the National Blood Policy. The objective of the policy is to provide safe, adequate quantity of blood, blood components and products. The main aim of the policy is to procure non remunerated regular blood donors by the blood banks. The policy also addresses various issues with regard to technical personnel, research and development and to eliminate profiteering by the blood banks by selling blood. This presentation discusses various ethical and legal aspects involved in the supply of blood and blood products in India.

Biography

Mr. Vikas Lodha is presently pursuing M. Pharmacy in Pharmaceutical Management & Regulatory Affairs branch at Lachoo Memorial College of Science & Technology, Pharmacy Wing, Jodhpur, India.

The impact of trips on the accessibility of essential medicines in developing countries

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TRIPS (Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights) is a comprehensive agreement containing new multilateral rules and disciplines with relatively high standards of intellectual property protection. TRIPS was an important component of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) signed in by over 80 countries in April 2004. Under TRIPS, as of 2005 all the countries in the WTO have to protect both product and process patents on pharmaceuticals, which further prevent the developing countries from making the generic versions of the essential medications needed to meet public health demands and maintain market competition. The TRIPS agreement serves as an important step in harmonizing international intellectual property systems; it currently fails to properly balance public and private interests, especially in the gap between rich and poor. TRIPS constitute a broadening of the existing patent system of many developing countries, including India. To parts of the business world, TRIPS has provided a means to help ensure that their investments in research can reap financial rewards, in order that their products can be globally marketed under patented protection. The aim of the present study is to discuss the impact of intellectual property rights and its role in access to the essential medicines in developing countries.

Biography

Vishnu Datta.M is pursuing Master's in Pharmaceutics at JSS College of Pharmacy, JSS University, Mysore, Karnataka, India. He completed his Bachelor of Pharmacy from Manipal University. His present interests are in Targeted Drug Delivery & Nano Particulate systems.

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