PHARM.D • YEAR 3

Pharmaceutical Jurisprudence

CHAPTER 9

Drug Price Control Order and Current National Drug Policy

PPT CHAPTER COVER



DOCTOR OF PHARMACY

DPCO: purpose and legal basis

A legal order connects essential medicines, price limits and patient access.

DRUGS (PRICES CONTROL) ORDER, 2013
Issued under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

It supports affordable medicine access through price fixation, monitoring and enforcement.



Scheduled formulations face the applicable ceiling-price controls.

Non-scheduled formulations are also subject to price monitoring and specified restrictions.

NPPA performs delegated functions under the framework.

The current base Order remains DPCO, 2013, read with amendments—including the June 2026 amendment—and product-specific notifications.

Drug-pricing history: key milestones

1970



An early DPCO formed part of India's drug-price-control history.

1979 AND 1987



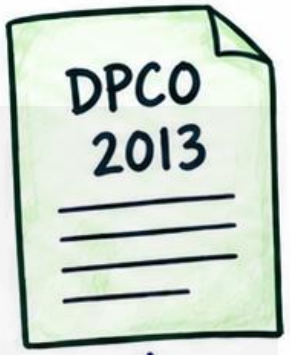
Later Orders revised the regulatory approach and coverage.

1995



DPCO 1995 used the earlier cost-based framework for covered drugs.

2013



DPCO 2013 introduced the market-based approach linked to essential formulations.

2026



Further amendments changed specified procedures and obligations; they did not replace the Order's 2013 identity.

Formulation, bulk drug and scheduled status

BULK DRUG OR API



The active pharmaceutical ingredient used in a medicine.

FORMULATION



A medicine prepared in a particular dosage form with one or more active ingredients.

SCHEDULED FORMULATION



A formulation included in Schedule I of DPCO, with relevant strength and dosage-form specifications.

NON-SCHEDULED FORMULATION



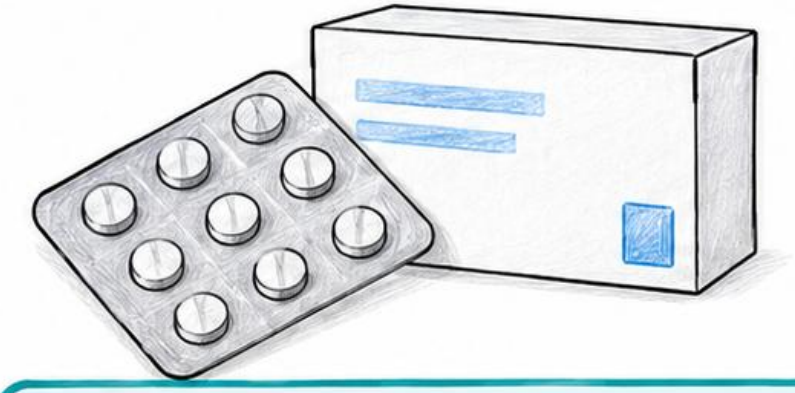
A formulation outside that Schedule, but still subject to applicable monitoring provisions.

DPCO 2013 primarily controls prices at formulation level. It is not simply a continuation of the old bulk-drug cost-pricing model.

Ceiling price, retail price and MRP

CEILING PRICE

The notified price limit for a scheduled formulation of the specified strength and dosage form.



RETAIL PRICE UNDER DPCO

A price fixed for a qualifying new drug under the relevant provisions.



MAXIMUM RETAIL PRICE – MRP

The maximum consumer price shown on the pack, including applicable taxes.

For a scheduled formulation, MRP must not exceed the notified ceiling price plus taxes where applicable.



Do not compare unlike pack sizes or confuse price to retailer with the final consumer price.

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