

DRAP To Train Pharmaceutical Companies On 2D Bar-coding Of Drugs

Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) has started moving with practical support to pharmaceutical companies through its training program across the country on 2D bar-coding of drugs to eradicate counterfeit and spurious drugs

ISLAMABAD, (Pakistan Point News - 31st Oct, 2017):Drug Regulatory Authority of **Pakistan** (DRAP) has started moving with practical support to pharmaceutical companies through its training program across the country on 2D bar-coding of **drugs** to eradicate counterfeit and spurious drugs. According to spokesman of DRAP, the step was taken for the protection of public from spurious and counterfeit **drugs** through DRAP's technical system to pharmaceutical companies.

He said that pharmaceutical manufacturers were required to emboss 2D bar-code data matrix on their registered drug products from all batches manufactured by December, 15, 2017. He added under a notification issued by DRAP on June 15, 2017, it was now mandatory that all market authorization holders of pharmaceutical **drugs** would emboss a 2D bar-code on their products. He said that bar-codes would be according to the standards of GS-I embedding Product identification code (GTIN), expiry date, batch number and price on the secondary packaging of drugs.

Companies will maintain database of bar-coding information of their products and will also submit it to DRAP. The authority has developed an online portal named as Drug Regulatory Information System (DRIS). Pharma companies and market authorization holders of products will access this portal through a validated account; without any subscription fee. In her statement on the occasion, Minister for National Health Services Saira Afzal Tarar expressed satisfaction that major initiatives taken by her Ministry was now being implemented and would give a major boost to eradicating spurious and counterfeit drugs.

In this regard, DRAP IT professionals have arranged training sessions for technical personnel of Pharma manufacturers in all provincial headquarters. First training session was held in Karachi on October 30 attended by representatives from national and multinational companies and their associations including Pharma Bureau and **Pakistan** Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association. Subsequent sessions are being arranged in **Lahore, Peshawar** and **Islamabad**.

Focal person from Division of Management Information System, DRAP had conducted this training and answered the technical queries regarding the firms online registration on this software. A step wise approach has been adopted while taking stakeholders on board. In second phase, bar-coding will also be mandatory for primary and tertiary packaging of drugs. In third phase, each pack will contain a unique serialization code along with 2D data matrix. All these steps will be very helpful to eradicate the menace of spurious, substandard, falsified and counterfeiting **drugs** form market of Pakistan.

For Online Link:

<https://www.pakistanpoint.com/en/pakistan/news/drap-to-train-pharmaceutical-companies-on-2d-207856.html>