

Health news delivered daily at
drugtodayonline.com
Ph.: (011) 22792078, 22792554

DRUG TODAY

Medical Times

OVER 100 products in all segments

We Offer:

- Attractive Packaging
- Latest Machines
- Nearest Rights
- High Quality Standards
- Good Price
- Good Service
- Good Advice
- Preventive Health
- Self Care

Minimum Batch Size Available

Wanted Franchisee:

- Tablets, Capsules, Syrup
- Dry Syrup, Injections
- Nutritional Supplements
- Protein Powder, Lotions
- Cosmetics, Shampoos

Stocks available:

- + 91 9888761706
- + 91 9914645893

New DCGI Approvals Are Available

DPCO Free Products

Jabs Biotech Pvt. Ltd.
(An ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company)
New Friends Colony, W-1, N. Delhi (Near Highway)
SCHIN (Chh. Surgery)

■ Medical City

P2

No end in sight to wait for
GTB's mother-child block

■ Medical Pharmacy

P4

Fake drugs major part of
medicine trade: Study

■ Medical Review

P6

Carica papaya leaves extract
increases platelet counts

■ DTMT Exclusive

P14

Billion plus, still counting:
Need to curb this growth

PAGE 1

Quest for medical status pits physios against docs

Demand for regulator gains momentum, so does resistance

BS RAWAT

A physiotherapist not only diagnoses, examines and treats all orthopedic disorders such as fractures, muscle cramps and ligament ruptures and sprains but also prevents pain, disability, disease, sport and work related injuries, ageing and long periods of inactivity. Professionally, he is in no way lags behind a physician or an orthopedic surgeon. But, he is not treated by the society on par with medical doctors for reasons best known to it.

This bias against physiotherapists defies all logic, yet it has

“ In VIth Pay Commission the pay scale of physiotherapists was deliberately kept low at the instance of former DGHS who happens to be a physical medicine and rehabilitation (PMR) specialist. Now also there are instructions from the DGHS that file pertaining to physiotherapists should go through Additional DGHS who is also PMR specialist.



—Dr Umasankar Mohanty, president, IAP

been perpetuated since ages and still prevalent in our society. What is intriguing is that there is no effort from the political establishment to correct the anom-

aly and give the deprived professionals their rightful due.

Any move by the government to give physiotherapists their rightful place is sure to meet with

forceful resistance from medical fraternity. Though both the professions are complementary to each other, but medical professionals especially PMR Specialists have always treated physiotherapists as their rivals. Such is

Memo to pay panel
Report on P5

the unity in the medical fraternity that they have no hope of getting a fair deal in the system where doctors' writ runs.

However, there is consensus among physiotherapists that

Continued on P11

Health news delivered daily at
drugtodayonline.com
Ph: (811) 22792978, 22792554

DRUG TODAY

Medical Times

OVER 100
products in all segments
9% OFFERS
Minimum Batch Size Available
Wholesale Transactions
Tablets, Capsules, Syringes,
Dry Syringes, Injections,
Syringes, Ampoules,
Powders, Powders, Lotions,
Ointments, Shampoos,
Syringes, etc.
New DCO Approvals
Are Available
DPCO Free Products
Jabs Biotech Pvt. Ltd.
New Friends Colony, W-5, Noida
201301 (Gurgaon)

Medical City

P2

No end in sight to wait for
GTB's mother-child block

Medical Pharmacy

P4

Fake drugs major part of
medicine trade: Study

Medical Review

P6

Carica papaya leaves extract
increases platelet counts

DTMT Exclusive

P14

Billion plus, still counting:
Need to curb this growth

PAGE 11

Quest for medical status...

Continued from page 1

things will change for the better and they will get the status on par with medical professionals if they get a regulator on the lines of Medical Council of India (MCI), a statutory body that regulates medical colleges, decides on affiliations, new colleges, and doctors' registrations. But successive governments have been averse to the idea of constituting an overarching regulatory body for physiotherapy for reasons.

A parliamentary standing committee on health recently acknowledged and cleared a Bill for independent physiotherapy council. The move only helped in intensifying a turf war between physiotherapists and medical doctors.

The Government may or may not accept the recommendation of the House committee, but the Bill, if passed into a law, does physiotherapy will attain

the status of an independent system of medicine is a moot point. Doctors feel any disruption of the existing hierarchy of healthcare system will amount to compromise the interests of patients.

A senior physical medicine and rehabilitation (PMR) doctor at the Kalawati Saran Children Hospital said, "Since he is not equipped to detect many diseases, the physiotherapist may routinely administer traction, which could aggravate the problem and cause paralysis."

He further said "How can he (the physiotherapist) diagnose diseases independently? Are they competent enough to do that? In a lot of cases he himself is contraindicated. How can the physiotherapists manage such cases without a doctor's supervision? The quality of the physiotherapy education itself is a big controversy as most of the colleges are

grossly understaffed."

AK Bhatnagar, executive member of Indian Association of Physiotherapists (IAP), refuted the suggestion that greater autonomy to physiotherapists would undermine the healthcare system.

Speaking to DTMT, he said, "It is just that doctors are unable to come to terms with the fact that our science has developed to an extent where we too could refer patients to them and they can't demand cuts from us any longer."

He further said IAP never asks for any power to prescribe medicines or to perform surgery, adding "Nobody can accuse us of encroaching on their domain".

"As a physiotherapist can diagnose and treat a patient without any medications to avoid the side effects and has the capability to make a person back to near normal from his knowledge, and the qualification as extended to many branches," said Dr Uma Shankar Mohanti,

president of IAP.

A few important points are widening the definition of physiotherapy, granting independent council status to the association, segregation of occupational therapists and having a higher pay scale and cadre.

Countering the allegations against them, Dr Prabhat Ranjan, a physiotherapist at AIIMS and convener of Government Affairs of IAP, stressed that a physiotherapist is fully equipped to carry on physical assessment leading to diagnosis before treatment.

In the absence of a regulatory body, there is no check on quality of education provided to the students aspiring to join the profession and there is crisis of jobs as well, he added.

Out of 250 colleges that offer physiotherapy course in India, about 100 have been closed down in the last five years due to lack of opportunities. In Delhi, four colleges have shut down the physi-

otherapy department recently because number of students seeking to take admission in the course remained low.

States like Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh and Kerala have laws to regulate fields like physiotherapy. However, these laws are not uniform and a person registered with a state council can only practise in that state.

According to rough estimates, there are about 60,000 physiotherapists and around 300 colleges offering undergraduate, post-graduate and doctoral programmes. Physiotherapy is a well recognised healthcare profession in the West and its education and practice are highly regulated on the same parameters as medical education unlike in India.

In our country physiotherapy has yet to get recognition. The job of a physiotherapist is underestimated and his services are underpaid.