

'Report adverse reactions in clinical trials promptly'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) has directed drug manufacturers to revise safety data for various antibiotics based on signals it received from the pharmacovigilance programme, drugs control director-general of India S Eswara Reddy said.

The pharmacovigilance programme of India gathers adverse drug reactions from 250 monitoring centres across the country. "Due to a large patient pool, we were able to generate robust and quality data, which was ana-

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S Eswara Reddy | DRUGS
CONTROL DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF
INDIA

lyzed for signals," he said, addressing the 29th convocation of Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research. He asked all medical colleges, which are among the monitoring cent-

res, to report promptly the adverse reactions.

With more than 6,500 manufacturing units - 1,400 WHO-approved good manufacturing practice centres, 1,105 European certification centres and 514 US-FDA approved centres - India caters to 50% of global vaccines, up to 40% generic demand in the US and 25% in the UK. The cost of HIV medication came down from \$1,000 per patient per year to \$1 per day and the cost of treating hepatitis has come down from \$80,000 to \$300. "We should focus on innovation and research and development, especially in

diseases relevant to us, like TB, HIV and malaria. With advances in science and the future of healthcare will be based on personalised treatments like gene therapy, stem cells, and proteomics," he added.

The department is evolving to ensure it is people-friendly for such research. The new Drugs and Clinical Trial Rules, 2019 will promote academic medical research and ensure time-bound approvals for clinical trials. "Approvals for new clinicals will now be given within 30 days. We are also looking to regulate the internet pharmacies in

future," he added.

He gave away 22 gold medals to meritorious students. Chancellor VR Venkataachalam conferred the degrees and distributed certificates to 452 graduates.

Vice-chancellor Dr P V Vijayaraghavan said from this academic year, SRIHER would offer new BSc courses in radiotherapy and in applied psychology and MSc courses in applied and regulatory toxicology, respiratory therapy technology, child nursing (nurse practitioner in critical care), biomechanics, biokinetics and mind body medicine.