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Indian state to slash prices of 348 drugs

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Singapore: Tripura has become the first Indian state to announce its implementation of the country's health ministry's decision to reduce the maximum retail prices of essential drugs.

The Tripura state government has asked the state drug control authority to be vigilant about implementation of this decision to slash the maximum retail price (MRPs) of 348 essential medicines from August 1.

Health minister Mr Tapan Chakraborty, said that, "I hope that in time we receive the necessary documents from the Union health ministry so that we can ensure that the price reduction of essential drugs is implemented as per the notification of the national pharmaceutical pricing authority."

Further the state government is planning to open a generic medicine counter at the Agartala Government Medical College (AGMC). The hospital has been banned from writing the brand names of the medicines too.

The government is in talks with the Rajasthan Generic Medicine Manufacturing Society over supply of adequate number of drugs to Tripura where patients can procure them at a low price.

The minister has added that this would help reduce the prices of several costly brands at least by 30 to 50 percent, benefitting the patients. "At the same time, low-cost medicine manufacturers should not be allowed to increase their prices," he argued.

As pointed out by the National List of Essential Medicines, the price control would be exercised on all 348 drugs with 614 dosages of each of the medicines.