

PRESS NOTE

Availability of emergency life saving drugs during proposed nationwide bandh call of AIOCD

Bhubaneswar, 19 May 2026

In the back drop of All-India Organization of Chemists and Druggists' (AIOCD) call for a nationwide bandh of medical shops on 20th May 2026, Government of Odisha in health and family welfare department has made a series of arrangements for ensuring availability of emergency lifesaving medicines. As per the information available from Drugs Controller of Odisha, the arrangement includes the following.

1. All Niramaya Centers in Government Health Institutions will dispense medicine to the patients. Chief District Medical and Public Health Officers (CDM and PHOs) of all districts have been asked to monitor and ensure this.
2. Medicine Store inside Hospital Campus will remain open.
3. All Pradhanmantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJK) will remain open.
4. All in-house pharmacies/stores attached to hospitals and clinical establishments, including 24×7 medicine stores directed to stay open.
5. Some Corporate run chemist shops are not taking part in Bandh as they are not associated with AIOCD. These shops will normally remain open.
6. All Drugs Inspectors and Assistant Drugs Controllers are instructed to monitor the availability and supply of essential and life-saving drugs in their respective jurisdictions.
7. All Drugs Inspectors are instructed to coordinate with wholesalers and distributors to ensure adequate advance supply of medicines to retailers prior to the bandh.
8. Appeal made to the local chemist associations to facilitate uninterrupted distribution and dispensing of medicines during emergency situations arising out of the bandh.
9. Chemists specifically of remote area are advised to ensure advance dispensing of medicines to patients suffering from chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, asthma, cardiac ailments, epilepsy, cancer, and other serious illnesses.

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PRO