

INDIAN PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

Annual IPM growth of 7-9% to be driven by new product introductions and price increases

March 2025



Highlights





ICRA expects growth momentum for the Indian pharmaceutical market (IPM) to sustain at 7-9% in FY2025 and FY2026, supported by continued price increases, new product launches and rising penetration of healthcare services in semi-urban and rural areas.



The Indian pharmaceutical market (IPM) witnessed a healthy CAGR of 9.4% (in value terms) between FY2012 and FY2024, despite several disruptive events over the last few years. Growth in recent years has largely been supported by price hikes and new product launches even as volume increase has remained muted. With structural factors supporting the overall demand, ICRA expects revenue growth for its sample set of 13 companies (accounting for ~35% of the IPM) to sustain at 9-11% in FY2025 and FY2026.



The increasing incidences of lifestyle diseases and longer duration of drug usage to treat chronic diseases, are expected to drive volumes for this segment. This is likely to be higher than that of acute therapies. While growth of the latter (accounting for 65-67% of the IPM) outpaced that of chronic therapies during FY2022 and FY2023 on account of Covid-19, followed by a strong flu season, it has since normalised to 7% per annum in FY2024 and 9M FY2025.



At present, revenues from drugs under the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) constitute ~17-18% of the IPM, with some companies deriving ~30% of revenues from the NLEM drugs. The price increase granted for these drugs was meagre, at 0.0051% for FY2025, the second lowest in a decade, on account of low WPI inflation during CY2023.



Revised Schedule M guidelines need to be implemented by December 31, 2025, by small and medium manufacturers. This may result in incremental capital expenditure (capex) requirement and additional expenses towards maintaining compliance and can lead to gradual consolidation within the industry. With growing generics and trade generics volumes, developments across the regulatory landscape remain a key monitorable for the industry.



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