

Zydus Cadila to launch India's 1st H1N1 vaccine

Becomes the first Indian company to receive DCGI's approval. Vaccine to be marketed under the brand name VaxiFlu-S

Ahmedabad, May 12, 2010

The Ahmedabad based pharma major, Zydus Cadila has received an approval from the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) to market the H1N1 (swine flu) vaccine. With this, Zydus Cadila will become the first Indian pharma company to launch its vaccine which will be marketed under the brand name VaxiFlu-S.

VaxiFlu-S will be marketed by Vaxxicare – a division of the group focussing on preventives. A dedicated taskforce has also been set up to market the vaccine. The egg based, inactivated vaccine based on conventional technology has been developed by the group's researchers at its Vaccine Technology Centre (VTC) in Ahmedabad. VTC further plans to develop a wide spectrum of vaccines against bacterial, viral and protozoal infections. With the development and launch of VaxiFlu-S, Zydus now has proven capabilities in researching, developing, and manufacturing of safe and efficacious vaccines. The group also markets the anti-rabies vaccine and the typhoid vaccine.

Speaking on the development Mr. Pankaj R. Patel, Chairman and Managing Director, Zydus Cadila said, "With the vaccine in the market soon, we would be better prepared with an affordable therapy and prevent further loss of lives to this infectious disease. The launch of VaxiFlu-S gives thrust to our objective of emerging as a strong player in the area of preventives."

Recent updates indicate that in India out of the 1,39,466 people tested for flu like symptoms, 23% of them tested positive for swine flu. India has also recorded a 5% fatality rate which is higher than the global rate. Though summer provides respite from seasonal flu, there have been incidences of H1N1 with cases being reported from Pune, Coimbatore and Chennai.

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