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Immediate reporting of coronary stent shortage

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The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has asked hospitals, doctors and patients at large to report on any shortage of coronary stents after companies had tried to withdraw from India last month.



Hardening its stand against pharmaceutical giants Abbott, Medtronic and Boston Scientific, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has asked hospitals, doctors and patients at large to report on any shortage of coronary stents after these companies had tried to withdraw from India last month.

The authority requested people to report back shortage of Medtronic's Resolute Onyx Zotarolimus Eluting Coronary Stent System, Abbott's Absorb GTI-Bioresorbable Vascular Scaffold (BVS) and Xience Alpine Medical Device, and Boston Scientific's SYNERGY monorail Everolimus-Eluting Platinum Chromium Coronary Stent System and Promus PREMIER Everolimus- Eluting Coronary Stent System.

These multinational companies had applied to withdraw their apparently latest generation coronary stents from the Indian market with Abbott leading the pack on April 22.

Soon after the government had imposed price cap on stents, the companies had called it commercially unviable to bring the latest technology to India. However, on April 26, the NPPA denied Abbott and Medtronic permission to withdraw their stents from the country, stating the application was not duly signed. The NPPA had also ordered the companies, under the Drug Prices Control Order 2013, to ensure a steady supply of the stents in question and submit weekly reports on their availability.