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PRESS RELEASE

Pakistan Medical Association appreciates the Federal Government's decision for allowing private companies to import Corona Vaccine, but decision of excluding the imported vaccines from the strict price cap regime that is typically applied to all drug sales within the country is not fair. It will give free hand to the companies to fix vaccine prices of their own choice and thus the vaccine prices will be higher.

PMA believes that the vaccine price matter should be dealt as per rules applied to all imported drugs and no price cap exemption should be given to any imported corona vaccine.

PMA is also concerned about the supply chain of the vaccine. It should be strictly maintained according to the required standards, so that its efficacy could be maintained.

The vaccination drive for healthcare workers in Pakistan, which started from 3rd February 2021, is moving very slowly because of the confusion among the healthcare workers. Government should start a massive campaign through media to rule out all the suspicions and fears about the vaccine.

The vaccine which is presently being administered to healthcare workers is not recommended for those who are older than 60 years. We request government to immediately import such vaccine which could be administered to the healthcare workers who are above sixty. We reiterate that at present the vaccine should be administered to healthcare workers only because healthcare workers are dying every day due to coronavirus and uptil now 188 doctors and 30 paramedics have died due to this deadly virus.

PMA also believes that people working at private health facilities and the general practitioners, who are running their own clinics, all are frontline soldiers so they should also be vaccinated on priority basis.

The healthcare workers' registration helpline 116 for vaccination is not functioning properly. We suggest that all provincial governments should establish their own registration desks or helpline for healthcare workers in their respective provinces to make the process more effective and smoother.

Dr. S.M.Qaisar Sajjad
Secretary General
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