

Decision of IPA Internal Committee in matter of illegal business activities by M/s Alkem

1. Complaint:

A complaint has been received against Alkem laboratories regarding illegal business activities. The complaint has been forwarded to IPA by the Department of Pharmaceutical (letter dated 5 April 2022) requesting for providing action taken in the matter under UCPMP. A copy of letter is attached herewith is Annexure 2a.

2. Process:

The copy of letter/complaint was shared with IPA's internal committee¹ for examining the matter.

It is alleged by the complainant that the respondent company has "...given money to (non MBBS) quack doctors against surveys but these doctors don't know about the questionnaire which is solved by them." The complainant has invoked certain provisions of Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices (UCPMP).

Upon the receipt of the complaint, we intimated MD, Alkem of the complaint and asked for a response. The respondent company sent the reply denying the allegations which is attached herewith as *Annexure 2b and 2c*.

The internal committee examined the complaint and the response received. The committee also spoke and investigated thoroughly with the officials of respondent company.

3. Decision

Whereas, the alleged complaint is merely a statement, lacks specifics and complainant has failed to provide any facts or supporting document or evidence as to the who are the quack doctors or period of the alleged complaint, nature of survey/its place/name, alleged payment. The complaint further does not provide any supporting evidence as to its alleged violation under clause 7.1 and 7.2.

On the other hand, the respondent company has demonstrated that they take takes such allegations seriously and do not tolerate unethical conduct by its employees. To support they have submitted Code of Ethics, whistle-blowers policy followed by the company against unethical practices.

¹ Internal Committee consists of three members – Dr Navneet Tewatia, Associate Secretary General, Mr Shirish Belapure, Senior Technical Advisor and Ms Archana Jatkar, Associate Secretary General at IPA.

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They further submitted that the respondent trains the employees on these ethical codes and policies. The said policies are available on its website and have been made aware to all employees of the company. The respondent company has provided the supporting document in this regard.

In view of lack of evidence and supporting document that can substantiate the allegation against the company and thereby breach of UCPMP, the complaint is closed with no further action.

For the IPA Internal Committee



Archana Jatkar
Associate Secretary General
IPA