Asia-Pacific · Medicines, tobacco, alcohol

India

Since 1 August 2023 the top 300 drug brands must carry a QR or barcode on the pack. A June 2026 notification extends this to all vaccines, anti-cancer and narcotic drugs from 1 July 2027 and to antimicrobials from 1 July 2028. Exported medicines have their own serialization rules.

THE REGIME

SYSTEM	**Drugs Rules Schedule H2 (domestic QR); export serialization**
CODE ON THE PRODUCT	Barcode or QR code with product code, batch, dates and licence number
AGGREGATION	Not required domestically.

STEPS FOR A SUPPLIER

- [ ] Register your products and GTINs in the national system: Drugs Rules Schedule H2.
- [ ] Print a unique serialised code on every saleable pack.
- [ ] Verify every code on the line; aggregate into cases and pallets where required.
- [ ] Report production and shipments to the national system.

ON THE LINE, BEFORE THE FIRST SHIPMENT

- [ ] The data in the code is agreed: GTIN, serial number, batch, expiry date or crypto tail, as the rules for your product group require.
- [ ] A verifier has graded printed samples (ISO/IEC 15415 for 2D codes) before the first shipment.
- [ ] A camera after the printer reads every code at line speed, and packs with an unreadable code are rejected.
- [ ] Records show which code went on which pack, case and pallet, ready for the report to the system.

DATES AHEAD

1 Jul 2027	Vaccines, anti-cancer and narcotic drugs
1 Jul 2028	Antimicrobials

SOURCES

1. MediaNama: QR code on top 300 brands: https://www.medianama.com/2025/08/223-govt-qr-code-top-300-pharma-brands/
2. Down To Earth: QR codes on antibiotics: https://www.downtoearth.org.in/health/how-qr-codes-on-antibiotics-can-strengthen-indias-fight-against-amr
3. LSPedia: India: https://lspedia.com/regulation/india