



BPNI/IMS Act/2020/020

August 14, 2020

**Shri. Rajesh Bhushan,
Secretary,
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare,
Government of India,
Nirman Bhawan, Delhi -110011**

Sub: Violation of Section 9 (2) of the IMS Act by infant milk substitute and infant food manufacturer companies Abbott and Danone.

Respected Sir,

India enacted "The Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply & Distribution) Act 1992, and Amendment Act 2003" (IMS Act). An offence committed is cognizable. The Government of India notified "Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI)"wide No G.S.R. 540 (E) dated the 27th June 1994, to monitor the compliance of the above Act.

We draw your attention to the violation of the IMS Act provisions by the infant milk substitute and infant food manufacturer companies Abbott and Danone by sponsoring online seminars (webinars) for doctors as follows:

1. Abbott sponsored a webinar titled "QIV 0.5 ml as Universal Dose" on 8th August 2020 (*Poster attached as annex - 1*)
2. Abbott sponsored a webinar titled "Case Based approach to diagnosis and treatment of cough in children" on 24th July 2020 (*Poster attached as annex - 2*)
3. Abbott sponsored a webinar titled "Differential Diagnosis & Management of Cough in Pediatrics" on 24th June 2020 (*Poster attached as annex - 3*)
4. Abbott sponsored a webinar on 30th June, 2020 titled, "Lactose intolerance in Pediatric practice – Myths and realities" (*Poster attached as annex-4*)
5. Abbott sponsored a webinar on 18th June, 2020 titled "Digital initiatives to enhance the way you deliver neonatal care" (*Poster attached as annex-5*)
6. Abbott sponsored a webinar on 14th June, 2020 titled "Pediatrics knowledge enhancement by experts", (*Poster attached as annex-6*)
7. Abbott sponsored a webinar titled on 23rd May, 2020 titled "Constipation: Spectrum of presentation and update on a new formulation" (*Poster attached as annex-7*)
8. Danone sponsored a webinar organised by FOGSI on 18th June 2020 titled, "Nutrition First for First 1000 Days" (*Poster attached as annex-8*)

Section 9(2) of IMS Act states, "No producer, supplier or distributor referred to in sub-section (1), shall offer or give any contribution or pecuniary benefit to a health worker or any association of health workers, including funding of seminar, meeting, conferences, educational course, contest, fellowship, research work or sponsorship."



**Breastfeeding
Promotion Network of India**
(Registered Under Societies Registration Act
XXI of 1860, Delhi R-No S-23144)
BP-33, Pitampura, Delhi-110034
Tel: +91-11-27312705, 42683059
Email: bpni@bpni.org
Website: www.bpni.org

BPNI requests you to kindly initiate action against the offending companies for violating the IMS Act.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for a fruitful action when BPNI earlier reported to the Secretary, MOHFW at that time (Mrs. Preeti Sudan) in 2019 about violation of the Act by Nestle, a baby food company, by sponsoring research at multiple places in India. (Letter by the Secretary, MOHFW to the DG, ICMR for appropriate action is attached as Annex – 9)

With regards,

Yours Sincerely,

**Dr. Arun Gupta MD FIAP
Central Coordinator, BPNI**