

Prescription drug prices under review

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Dubai: Health officials will soon review prescription drug prices in the UAE, which have been going up, in order to determine the appropriate pricing based on need and ability to pay.

A Gulf News survey found prescription drug prices have risen by more than five per cent in the last month. Prices for these drugs are fixed by the **Ministry of Health**.

Dr Ali Shakar, director-general at the ministry, told Gulf News the increase in drug prices was due to the currency exchange rate. "It's not the global economic crisis. It is the euro against the dirham," he said.

Although the dirham is pegged Dh 3.65 to \$1, most of the medicines in the UAE are made in Europe and purchased with the euro. The value of the US dollar has hovered around \$1.45 against 1 euro, since its lowest dip in July when it was \$1.6 against 1 euro.

{Zawya}