

#### Pharma & Healthcare Q1FY26 Result Preview

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**Axis Securities Equity Research** 

#### PHARMA & HEALTHCARE Q1FY26 PREVIEW: NICHE LAUNCHES & HOSPITAL EXPANSION

We anticipate that pharmaceutical companies within our coverage will collectively demonstrate revenue growth of 9.9% YoY and 0.8% QoQ, along with EBITDA growth of 11.3% YoY and 3.6% QoQ. Moreover, adjusted PAT is expected to grow by 13.3% YoY and decrease by 3.5% QoQ. Domestic formulations and niche launches in the US market will likely drive this growth.

Within the US generics, growth is particularly driven by products such as gRevlimid, gMirabegron, gSpiriva, gAlbuterol, gPrezista, gLenalidomide, gProlensa, gRivaroxaban, gtolvapatan and various biosimilars. The US market is anticipated to witness low single-digit growth, led by volume expansion in existing products, offset by continued price erosion. The legal dispute over gMirabegron is expected to persist in the US, involving Lupin and Zydus. Meanwhile, the Indian business is likely to see muted sequential growth, driven by sluggish performance in chronic therapies and a recovery in acute therapies. We estimate Dr. Reddy's, Cipla, and Aurobindo to report gRevlimid sales of \$135 Mn, \$35 Mn, and \$29 Mn, respectively, in Q4FY25E.

Additionally, we anticipate a 30bps improvement in margins on a YoY basis for most companies in our coverage. The primary reasons for this margin improvement are (i) New launches during the year's formulations business, (ii) Stable freight costs and decline in API prices, and (iii) Lower input costs and a better product mix towards niche launches.

The price index of API/KSM, which covers the top 15 APIs imported from China and widely used as raw materials by pharma companies, shows that aggregate API prices remain negative QoQ. For the past three quarters, API prices have recorded a negative variance, indicating they have not yet bottomed out. This stabilisation trend could support improved gross margins for API companies in the upcoming quarters. The recovery in API prices may be driven by volume growth and a more stable supply chain. Additionally, in Q1FY26, crude prices declined and shipping rates remained stable, which could help maintain flat margins for pharma companies in the near term.

In Q1FY26, aggregate EBITDA margins of our under-coverage pharma companies are expected to improve by 30bps YoY.

**Healthcare:** Within our coverage, we anticipate the healthcare sector to register revenue growth of 19.8% YoY and 5.8% QoQ. This would be largely driven by an expected improvement in occupancies of up to 100 bps and ARPOB growth of 7–8%.



Our analysis indicates that Fortis, Max, and KIMS could achieve growth of 16.2%/26%/28.6% YoY, respectively, due to the installation of additional beds and the addition of new hospitals to their portfolios. However, Medanta may not lag behind its peers, although its Lucknow hospital has begun to show signs of a gradual recovery. Despite a soft quarter in healthcare, HCG could report healthy topline growth driven by contributions from the Vizag hospital. Additionally, we project an adjusted EBITDA growth of 28% YoY and 4% QoQ for our hospital coverage.

These companies may surpass industry growth, driven by a superior product portfolio and a strong product pipeline. In hospitals, Fortis, Max, and KIMS are expected to achieve higher occupancies and realisations as they continue to consistently gain market share and expand their margins.

**Dr Reddy's:** We expect \$235 Mn base business and \$135 Mn gRevlimid sales in the US, with flattish growth in US sales QoQ. We have factored in stable gRevlimid sales QoQ. Commentary on the US base business and margin trend remains a key monitorable. The India and Europe businesses grew by 9%, while the Emerging Markets are expected to report 10% growth. Commentary on the US base business and margin trend is key monitorable.

Cipla Ltd (CIPLA): CIPLA may face challenges in maintaining a stable market share in Albuterol and Advair. The company is gradually building market share in Lanreotide injections. We anticipate that Albuterol, Lanreotide, gRevlimid, and Brovana will contribute to stable sales of \$221 Mn in the US market. Additionally, we expect \$35 Mn in sales for gRevlimid in the last quarter. The Indian business is expected to report 8% YoY growth, while South Africa is projected to report 15% YoY growth. We expect overall EBITDA to remain flat at 3.2% YoY, with EBITDA margin declining by 90 bps YoY to 24.7% in Q1FY26.

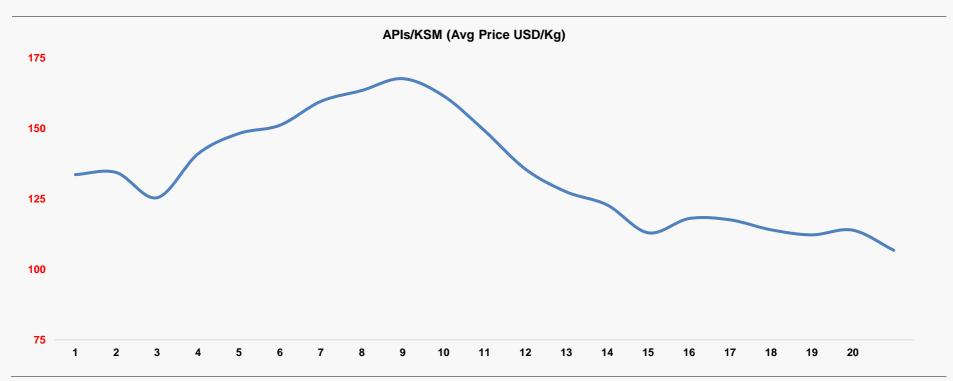
**Lupin:** We anticipate 11.9% YoY revenue growth in Q1FY26, driven by a recovery in the domestic business and new launches in the US market. We also expect \$270 Mn in US-based sales for Lupin, supported by contributions from gSpiriva, gSupreb, and gPrezista, along with greater pricing stability. Additionally, the niche launch of gMirabegron is expected to generate around \$60 Mn in full-year sales, and Tolvaptan (180-day exclusivity) will contribute an additional \$18 Mn this quarter. However, we expect some offsetting impact due to pricing pressure in Albuterol. EBITDA margins could improve by 190 bps YoY due to lower raw material prices and the launch of niche products in the portfolio. Lupin is expected to report a 16% YoY PAT growth in Q1FY26E.

We recommend BUY on Lupin, Aurobindo, Fortis, KIMS, and Max Health.



**API/KSM (Raw Material):** The price index of API/KSM, encompassing the top 15 APIs imported from China and predominantly used as raw materials by pharma companies, indicates that aggregate API prices remain negative QoQ. For the past few quarters, API prices have shown a consistent negative variance, suggesting they have not yet bottomed out. This stabilisation trend could lead to improved gross margins for API companies in the upcoming quarters. The improvement in API prices could be driven by volume growth and supply checks from China. Furthermore, in Q1FY26, crude prices were down, while shipping rates remained stable, potentially pointing to flat margins for pharma companies in the near term. However, in Q1FY26, our under-coverage pharma companies' aggregate EBITDA margins are expected to improve by 30 bps YoY.

**API/KSM:** The price index of API/KSM, which comprises the top 15 APIs imported from China (majorly used as raw material by Pharma companies), indicates an aggregate API price decrease of 6% QoQ and ~9% YoY.



Source: Pharma compass, ASL Research



API/KSM: List of top 15 APIs imported from China. These are mainly used as raw materials by pharmaceutical companies. The price trends indicate a 6% YoY aggregate price decline in the last quarter. For the past few quarters, API prices have remained with a negative variance, suggesting they have not yet bottomed out. This stabilisation could lead to improved gross margins for API companies in the upcoming quarters.

USD/KG	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Pencillin G	28	29	28	33	43	33	33	33	34	32	30	29	24	28	21	34	34	34	26	23
Azithromycin	119	118	120	126	127	133	137	136	124	121	116	120	133	128	139	141	140	138	144	140
Ceftriaxone	72	70	71	71	69	73	83	96	97	80	75	71	69	62	62	69	71	71	71	70
Vitamin B1	65	91	65	75	82	61	59	68	67	66	54	42	71	49	60	64	60	51	51	56
Amoxicillin	186	179	170	171	170	169	171	181	189	181	177	194	197	186	170	200	184	174	200	194
Gabapentin	37	37	37	36	36	36	36	35	34	34	34	33	32	31	30	28	28	27	27	26
Artemisinin	167	161	169	109	193	224	267	270	250	174	150	135	123	104	100	103	106	136	141	141
Lamivudine	58	74	107	111	118	156	112	112	112	117	100	95	112	122	105	92	97	106	90	86
Vitamin E	14	15	14	17	17	16	20	17	17	17	16	18	21	16	14	16	15	18	23	26
Meropenem	825	660	875	979	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	996	864	790	703	594	494	591	537	508	463	450	397
Clarithromycin	163	162	146	166	164	210	214	242	224	218	211	202	216	199	206	208	207	195	206	196
Acyclovir	100	100	116	143	73	94	99	99	88	110	91	94	82	94	107	108	103	107	110	93
Ibuprofen	16	14	14	13	11	10	10	12	10	12	12	13	14	13	12	12	11	14	11	11
Erythromycin	60	64	65	69	66	67	78	80	81	79	74	72	74	81	83	74	81	77	79	77
Losartan	106	108	119	105	99	113	134	135	101	134	104	92	81	88	71	78	66	73	80	66
Avg. Index Price	134	125	141	148	151	160	164	168	162	149	136	128	123	113	118	118	114	112	114	107

Source: Pharma compass, ASL Research



#### Pharma

Year-end March (Rs Cr)	Q1FY26E	Q4FY25	QoQ (%)	Q1FY25	YoY (%)	Result expectations
Aarti Drugs						
Revenues	598	667	-10.3%	555	7.7%	
Gross Profit	214	240	-10.8%	196	9.2%	<ul> <li>→ API prices have experienced a decline and are at the bottom curve</li> <li>and are expected to rebound.</li> </ul>
Gross margin (%)	35.8	36.0		35.3		<ul> <li>Price erosion reflecting de-growth on a YoY basis, but volume-driven</li> </ul>
EBITDA	69	93	-25.8%	65	6.2%	growth to offset the impact.  API Segment could report 8% growth overall, and the formulation
EBITDA margin (%)	11.5	13.9		11.7		business is in line with IPM growth.
PAT	37	63	-41.2%	33	10.8%	_
EPS (Rs)	4.0	6.8	-41.2%	3.6	10.8%	_
Aurobindo Pharma						
Revenues	8,302	8,382	-1.0%	7,567	9.7%	
Gross Profit	4,972	4,954	0.4%	4,494	10.6%	→ In the US market, US sales are at \$450 Mn, excluding gRevlimid.
Gross margin (%)	59.9	59.1		59.4		<ul><li>gRevlimid sales could be \$29 Mn.</li><li>→ Euro Market could report 9% YoY growth and stabilisation in the ARV</li></ul>
EBITDA	1,816	1,792	1.3%	1,566	16.0%	segment, along with 9.5% growth in Emerging growth markets
EBITDA margin (%)	21.9	21.4		20.7		→ We expect no sales from PEN-G in this quarter.
PAT	988	903	9.4%	817	20.9%	
EPS (Rs)	17.0	15.5	9.4%	14.1	20.9%	



## Pharma (Cont'd)

Year-end March (Rs Cr)	Q1FY26E	Q4FY25	QoQ (%)	Q1FY25	YoY (%)	Result expectations
Biocon						
Revenues	3,930	4,417	-11.0%	3,433	14.5%	<ul><li>In the Research segment, we have assumed 8% YoY growth where</li></ul>
Gross Profit	2,630	2,944	-10.7%	2,250	16.9%	whereas Generic is expected to be accelerated by 15% aided by
Gross margin (%)	66.9	66.7		65.5		access to other markets. Biosimilars could report 11% YoY growth
EBITDA	819	1,078	-24.0%	620	32.1%	→ Improved gross margins and EBITDA margins are expected to be
EBITDA margin (%)	20.8	24.4		18.1		_ driven by a decrease in raw material prices.
PAT	153	459	-66.7%	72	112.5%	
EPS (Rs)	1.3	3.8	-66.7%	0.6	112.5%	
DR REDDY						
Revenues	8,448	8,528	-0.9%	7,696	9.8%	<ul><li>Expect \$235 Mn base business and \$135 Mn gRevlimid sales in the</li></ul>
Gross Profit	5,660	5,672	-0.2%	5,514	2.6%	US. Expect flattish growth in US sales QoQ. We have factored in
Gross margin (%)	67.0	66.5		71.6		stable gRevlimid sales QoQ.
EBITDA	2,110	1,998	5.6%	2,130	-0.9%	→ India & Europe business grew by 9%, whereas the Emerging markets
EBITDA margin (%)	25.0	23.4		27.7		are expected to report 10% growth.
PAT	1,485	1,587	-6.4%	1,392	6.7%	
EPS (Rs)	17.8	19.0	-6.4%	16.7	6.7%	
Lupin Ltd						→ We expect \$270 Mn in US-based sales, with the QoQ growth largely
Revenues	6,267	5,768	8.7%	5,600	11.9%	driven by the launch of Tolvaptan (180-day exclusivity). However,
Gross Profit	4,330	3,981	8.8%	3,856	12.3%	some offsetting impact is anticipated due to pricing pressure on
Gross margin (%)	69.1	69.0		68.9		Albuterol. The domestic business is expected to report 9–10% growth
EBITDA	1,510	1,321	14.3%	1,241	21.7%	in sales.
EBITDA margin (%)	24.1	22.9		22.2		→ We expect overall 12% YoY growth in topline, and GM to improve by
PAT	930	782	18.9%	802	16.0%	30 bps, expanding EBITDA by 21.7%
EPS (Rs)	20.5	17.3	18.9%	17.7	16.0%	



# Pharma (Cont'd)

Year-end March (Rs Cr)	Q1FY26E	Q4FY25	QoQ (%)	Q1FY25	YoY (%)	Result expectations
Gland Pharma						
Revenues	1,481	1,425	3.9%	1,402	5.6%	
Gross Profit	971	937	3.6%	838	15.9%	→ The injectables business, along with the new Acquisition in the US and
Gross margin (%)	65.6	65.8		59.8		other markets, could drive sales. EBITDA could improve due to low raw
EBITDA	368	348	5.7%	265	38.9%	<ul><li>material prices.</li><li>We have factored in lower losses for Cenexi on a sequential basis.</li></ul>
EBITDA margin (%)	24.8	24.4		18.9		_
PAT	205	187	9.6%	144	42.4%	_
EPS (Rs)	13.2	12.1	9.6%	9.3	42.4%	
CIPLA						
Revenues	7,174	6,730	6.6%	6,694	7.2%	→ We expect \$221 Mn in base sales in the US market, driven by
Gross Profit	4,821	4,541	6.2%	4,501	7.1%	gRevlimid (\$35 Mn), Albuterol, and Lenotirade, partially offset by
Gross margin (%)	67.2	67.5		67.2		<ul><li>continued price erosion.</li><li>Indian Business to report 8% YoY growth and South Africa to report</li></ul>
EBITDA	1,771	1,538	15.1%	1,716	3.2%	15% YoY growth.
EBITDA margin (%)	24.7	22.9		25.6		→ We expect overall EBITDA growth to remain flat at 3.2% YoY, with EBITDA margin declining by 90 bps YoY to 24.7% in1QFY26.
PAT	1,228	1,225	0.2%	1,176	4.4%	
EPS (Rs)	15.2	15.2	0.2%	14.6	4.4%	



### Healthcare

Year-end March (Rs Cr)	Q1FY26E	Q4FY25	QoQ (%)	Q1FY25	YoY (%)	Result expectations
нсс						
Revenues	579	585	-1.0%	526	10.1%	_
Gross Profit	430	431	-0.2%	392	9.7%	→ We expect overall 10% YoY growth and EBITDA to grow by 18.7%.
Gross margin (%)	74.3	73.7		74.5		Additional top-line growth may be seen due to the acquisition of the VIZAG unit
EBITDA	108	106	1.9%	91	18.7%	→ Occupancies to improve by 150-200bps on YoY and ARPOB to grow
EBITDA margin (%)	18.7	18.1		17.3		_ by 7-8%.
PAT	14.9	6.8	119.5%	13.7	8.5%	_
EPS (Rs)	1.07	0.49		0.99		_
KIMS						
Revenues	885	797	11.0%	688	28.6%	<ul><li>→ We expect overall 28.6% YoY growth and EBITDA to grow by 15.6%,</li></ul>
Gross Profit	687	630	9.0%	546	25.8%	aided by the operation of Thane hospital (200 beds) along with the
Gross margin (%)	77.6	79.0		79.4		ramp-up of Kannur and Nasik units.
EBITDA	207	198	4.5%	179	15.6%	_
EBITDA margin (%)	23.4	24.8		26.0		→ Consolidated ARPOB should stand at Rs 42,000 along with a 50%
PAT	102.00	106	-3.8%	95	7.4%	<ul> <li>overall occupancy ratio.</li> </ul>
EPS (Rs)	2.5	2.5	-3.8%	2.3	7.4%	



# Healthcare (Cont'd)

Year-end March (Rs Cr)	Q1FY26E	Q4FY25	QoQ (%)	Q1FY25	YoY (%)	Result expectations
Global Health						
Revenues	965	931	3.7%	861	12.1%	
Gross Profit	740	718	3.1%	652	13.5%	→ Stable at mature hospital-driven growth by improved higher ARPOB
Gross margin (%)	76.7	77.1		75.7		<ul> <li>and occupancies</li> <li>Lucknow units are showing gradual recovery, and margins are</li> </ul>
EBITDA	235	230	2.2%	191	23.0%	expected to improve on a sequential basis
EBITDA margin (%)	24.4	24.7		22.2		→ Noida hospitals are now expected in H2FY26E for commercialisation
PAT	133.0	101.0	31.7%	106.0	25.5%	_
EPS (Rs)	4.96	3.77		3.95		_
Max Healthcare Institute						No are some of the flat around an electric ADDOD due to law as
Revenues	2,440.0	2,326.0	4.9%	1,935.0	26.1%	<ul> <li>We are expecting flat occupancy and flat ARPOB due to lower seasonality.</li> </ul>
Gross Profit	1,470.0	1,409.0	4.3%	1,162.0	26.5%	Operational margins may remain the same.  Addition of hade in the network on a YeV basis in Dwarks. Luckneys.
Gross margin (%)	60%	61%		60%		<ul> <li>Addition of beds in the network on a YoY basis in Dwarka, Lucknow and Jaypee. Furthermore, the addition of new beds would benefit the</li> </ul>
EBITDA	610.0	613.0	-0.5%	480.0	27.1%	topline growth.
EBITDA margin (%)	25%	26%		25%		
PAT	345.0	376.0	-8.2%	295.0	16.9%	
EPS (Rs)	3.55	3.87		3.04		



# Healthcare (Cont'd)

Year-end March (Rs Cr)	Q1FY26E	Q4FY25	QoQ (%)	Q1FY25	YoY (%)	Result expectations
Fortis Healthcare						
Revenues	2,161	2,007	7.7%	1,859	16.2%	_
Gross Profit	1,661	1,544	7.6%	1,406	18.1%	→ Occupancies to improve by 100 bps and 7% ARPOB growth
Gross margin (%)	77%	77%		76%		→ 200bps improvement expected in Hospitality segment's EBITDA
EBITDA	486	435	11.7%	343	41.7%	Margins (%)
EBITDA margin (%)	22%	22%		18%		→ Diagnostic arm Agilus could report volume growth
PAT	252.0	188.0	34.0%	174.0	44.8%	_
EPS (Rs)	3.34	2.49		2.30		



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