

SINGAPORE, 16 OCTOBER 2017

HSA UPDATES

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HSA UPDATES NO 8/2017

HSA CLARIFIES THAT NEWS ON PO CHAI PILLS RECALL IN HONG KONG IS OUTDATED

The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) would like to inform members of the public that a recently circulated news clip on the recall of Po Chai Pills in Hong Kong is based on a previously reported incident that took place in 2010. The news clip mentioned that Po Chai Pills is being recalled in Hong Kong due to the presence of two chemical substances, phenolphthalein (a laxative) and sibutramine (a banned western medicinal ingredient for slimming), which were detected after testing was done by Singapore authorities.

2 HSA would like to inform members of the public that this incident occurred in 2010 following HSA’s detection of the two chemical substances in Po Chai Pills (Capsule Form) during our routine surveillance checks. Po Chai products manufactured by Li Chung Shing Tong used to be available in 2 different forms – Po Chai Pills packaged in capsules (Capsule Form) and Po Chai Pills packaged in bottles (Bottle Form). The product that was affected was Po Chai Pills (Capsule Form) and not Po Chai Pills (Bottle Form). The manufacturer ceased production of Po Chai Pills (Capsule Form) and stopped marketing it in Singapore since May 2010, after HSA recalled the specific batch of the product in 2010. No adulterants were detected in Po Chai Pills (Bottle Form). Please refer to photos of both products below.



Po Chai Pills (Capsule Form)
Found to contain sibutramine and phenolphthalein



Po Chai Pills (Bottle Form)
No adulterants found

3 Following HSA's detection of the disallowed substances in Po Chai Pills (Capsule Form) in 2010, Hong Kong's Department of Health (DOH) recalled all the Po Chai Pills products. As Po Chai Pills (Bottle Form) was not affected, DOH subsequently allowed the manufacturer to resume production and marketing of the pills.

4 Po Chai Pills (Bottle form) is still being sold in Singapore, and HSA continues to monitor the product under our product quality surveillance programme. In the latest laboratory test in October 2017, the product was found to be compliant with the quality standards. The product did not contain phenolphthalein, sibutramine or any other western potent medicinal ingredients or contaminants.

**HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY
SINGAPORE
16 OCTOBER 2017**

▪ **About the Health Sciences Authority (HSA)**

The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) applies medical, pharmaceutical and scientific expertise through its three professional groups, Health Products Regulation, Blood Services and Applied Sciences, to protect and advance national health and safety. HSA is a multidisciplinary authority. It serves as the national regulator for health products, ensuring they are wisely regulated to meet standards of safety, quality and efficacy. As the national blood service, it is responsible for providing a safe and adequate blood supply. It also applies specialised scientific, forensic, investigative and analytical capabilities in serving the administration of justice. For more details, visit <http://www.hsa.gov.sg/>.

For more updates on public health and safety matters, follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/HSAsg.

▪ **About HSA Updates**

The "HSA Updates" seeks to provide current information, in a consistent and accurate manner, on topics of public interest. For all issues of HSA Updates, please visit www.hsa.gov.sg click "News & Events", and select "HSA Updates".

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