



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY  
PRESS RELEASE  
29 APR 2014

## HSA ALERTS PUBLIC TO 6 MORE 'HERBAL HEALTH' PRODUCTS FOUND TO CONTAIN UNDECLARED POTENT WESTERN MEDICINAL INGREDIENTS

The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) alerts members of the public to undeclared potent medicinal ingredients found in the 'Herbal Health' range of products by Ace Nutrition International. Following HSA's media release on 'Herbal Health Jointcare' on 8 April 2014, further investigation and testing of other products by the company revealed that 6 more 'Herbal Health' range of products contained undeclared ingredients. The products were 'Herbal Health Backplus 500mg', 'Herbal Health V+', 'Herbal Health RU Special Cream', 'Herbal Health YI Special Cream', 'Herbal Health JI Special Cream' and 'Herbal Health XIANG Special Cream'. Please refer to **Annex A** for pictures of the products.

2 HSA has since seized the products from the company's premises at Kallang Pudding Road and stopped all sales of the products. HSA is currently investigating the source of manufacturing of these products.

### **'Herbal Health Backplus 500mg', 'Herbal Health V+'**

3 Both 'Herbal Health Backplus 500mg' and 'Herbal Health V+' had made general health claims on their labels. **'Herbal Health Backplus'** was intended to relieve back muscles and lower backache, as well as eliminate lethargy but HSA found that it contained an undeclared medicinal ingredient, tadalafil. **'Herbal Health V+'** was intended to improve men's vigour, enhance physical strength and stamina, and promote higher self-esteem. However, 2 undeclared ingredients, tadalafil and sildenafil, were detected in this product. Both tadalafil and sildenafil are potent western medicinal ingredients used to treat erectile dysfunction. They can cause serious adverse effects and should not be taken without medical supervision. In the case of patients with heart conditions, these products can interact with the patients' medications such as nitrates and can cause death.

### **'Herbal Health RU Special Cream', 'Herbal Health YI Special Cream', 'Herbal Health JI Special Cream' and 'Herbal Health XIANG Special Cream'**

4 The 'Herbal Health' range of creams claimed to treat skin conditions such as itch, eczema, dry skin, scaling heels and fungal infections but did not list any active ingredients on their labels. However, HSA's testing revealed that they contained undeclared western medicinal ingredients which included an anti-allergy ingredient, chlorpheniramine, and anti-fungal ingredients, clotrimazole, miconazole and terbinafine. Please refer to **Annex B** for more information on their potential side effects.

## **HSA advisory**

5 Members of the public who are consuming or using the above listed 'Herbal Health' products are advised to:

(i) Stop consuming/using these products immediately and seek medical advice if they feel unwell. Undeclared western medicinal ingredients may cause possible adverse effects as well as drug interactions with consumers' own medications which can seriously harm health.

(ii) Be wary of complementary health products promising 'miraculous cures' and/or providing rapid relief of their medical conditions.

(iii) Seek proper medical treatment for acute and chronic medical symptoms and conditions (such as erectile dysfunction, infection, backache and itch) and not self-medicate.

6 HSA will take strong enforcement actions against those who engage in the sale and supply of health products containing undeclared potent medicinal ingredients. Anyone found to contravene the Poisons Act faces a penalty of up to \$10,000 and/or imprisonment for a period of up to two years under the Poisons Act.

7 Members of the public who have any information on the sale of the 'Herbal Health' products listed in Annex A or other illegal products may contact HSA's Enforcement Branch at Tel: 6866-3485 during office hours (Monday to Friday) or email: [hsa\\_is@hsa.gov.sg](mailto:hsa_is@hsa.gov.sg).

## **HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY 29 APRIL 2014**

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### **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](http://www.twitter.com/HSAsg).

### **About HSA's Health Products Regulation Group**

The Health Products Regulation Group (HPRG) of HSA ensures that drugs, innovative therapeutics, medical devices and health-related products are wisely regulated and meet appropriate safety, quality and efficacy standards. It contributes to the development of biomedical sciences in Singapore by administering a robust, scientific and responsive regulatory framework.

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**'Herbal Health BackPlus'**



**'Herbal Health V+'**



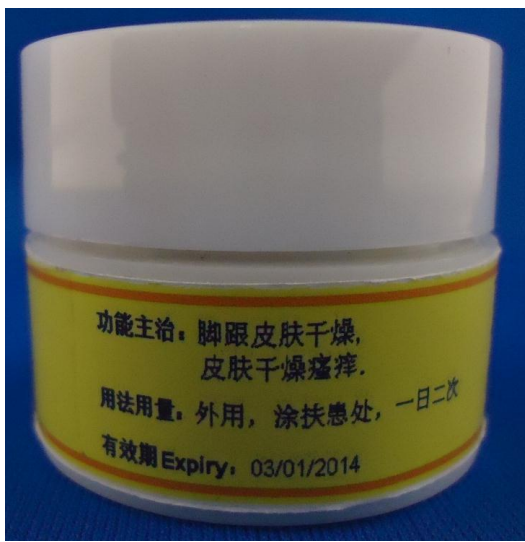
'Herbal Health RU Special Cream'



'Herbal Health YI Special Cream'



'Herbal Health JI Special Cream'



'Herbal Health XIANG Special Cream'



**I. Information on the undeclared potent medicinal ingredients found in the affected 'Herbal Health' products that should only be prescribed by a doctor**

**Tadalafil and Sildenafil**

Tadalafil and sildenafil are prescription medicines belonging to the same class of medications used to treat erectile dysfunction. They should be prescribed by a doctor and used under medical supervision. Serious adverse reactions related to tadalafil and sildenafil have been reported including decreased or loss of vision and hearing, cardiovascular events such as stroke and myocardial infarction and priapism (painful and exceedingly long erections). If priapism is not treated immediately, it may lead to permanent impotence. In addition, tadalafil and sildenafil are not suitable for patients with some medical conditions including certain heart problems or patients who are taking heart medications such as nitrates.

**II Other medicinal ingredients**

**Chlorpheniramine**

Chlorpheniramine is available as a Pharmacy Only Medicine that should be dispensed by a pharmacist.

Chlorpheniramine is an antihistamine used to relieve allergic reactions, such as hay fever, rhinitis, urticaria and asthma. Adverse effects from unsupervised use may include drowsiness, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea and constipation.

**Clotrimazole, miconazole and terbinafine**

Clotrimazole, miconazole and terbinafine are medicines used to treat fungal infections. The possible adverse effects associated with the inappropriate use of creams containing clotrimazole, miconazole or terbinafine may include skin irritation, itching of the skin and skin rash.