



**SINGAPORE, 15 JANUARY 2018**

## **HSA UPDATES**

***“HSA UPDATES” addresses topics of current public interest, and is subject to change as more information becomes available.***

**HSA UPDATES NO 1/2018**

### **HSA UPDATES ON ADULTERATED HEALTH PRODUCTS FOUND IN OTHER COUNTRIES/REGIONS (AUG – OCT 2017)**

The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) would like to update the public on adulterated health products found overseas between August and October 2017. This information is provided to increase awareness on safety issues of health products found overseas, which may impact the local population. Please refer to Annex A and Annex B for the list of adulterated health products and the possible side effects of the undeclared potent ingredients.

#### **Local Situation**

2 These products are available from overseas sources, including over the Internet. To-date, HSA has not detected them being sold in Singapore.

#### **HSA’s Advisory**

- 3 Members of the public are advised to:
- Stop consuming the products if you have purchased or are consuming any of them, and consult a doctor if you are feeling unwell.
  - Avoid buying any of the products when abroad.
  - Be wary of products that promise quick and miraculous results or carry exaggerated claims like “100% safe”, “no side effects” or “scientifically proven”. Consumers should also be cautious of products that produce unexpected quick recovery of medical conditions. Consult your doctor or pharmacist if you need help for the management of your acute and chronic medical symptoms and conditions (e.g. diabetes, hypertension, eczema).
  - Exercise caution when purchasing health products online or from sources (either local or overseas) which you may not be familiar with, even if well-meaning friends or relatives have recommended them. You cannot be certain where and how these products were made. They may be illegal, counterfeit or substandard, and may contain undeclared ingredients which can harm your health. If buying health products online, we encourage you to buy them from websites with an established retail presence in Singapore.

4 Additionally, members of the public are encouraged to visit [www.healthdangers.sg](http://www.healthdangers.sg) to learn more about the dangers of buying health products from dubious sources.

5 Members of the public who come across the sale and supply of these adulterated products or other illegal products in Singapore 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  
SINGAPORE  
15 JANUARY 2018**

---

▪ **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 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](http://www.hsa.gov.sg) click "News & Events", and select "HSA Updates".

**Media representatives are welcome to send any queries to the Corporate Communications Department @ HSA.**

## Annex A

### List of Adulterated Products



Name of product	Picture of product	Undeclared potent ingredient(s) found	Source (Regulatory Agency)
AMPT Coffee	Product image not available	Sildenafil and Tadalafil (PDE-5 Inhibitors)	United States Food and Drug Administration
Asia Slim Capsules		Sibutramine, Diazepam and Bisacodyl	United States Food and Drug Administration
Bactefar Capsules		High levels of mercury (Toxic heavy metal)	Health Sciences Authority Singapore
Blue Diamond		Sildenafil (PDE-5 Inhibitors)	Health Canada
Dr Vijeyapal's Herbzalive Calbren		High levels of arsenic and mercury (Toxic heavy metals)	Health Sciences Authority Singapore
Fifty Shades		Sildenafil, Tadalafil and Desmethyl Carbodenafil (PDE-5 Inhibitors)	United States Food and Drug Administration

Name of product	Picture of product	Undeclared potent ingredient(s) found	Source (Regulatory Agency)
Germany Black Gorilla tablets		Sildenafil (PDE-5 Inhibitors)	Australia Therapeutic Goods Administration
Grande X		Sildenafil, Tadalafil and Desmethyl Carbodenafil (PDE-5 Inhibitors)	United States Food and Drug Administration
Hard Rock 3800		Yohimbe bark extract	Health Canada
Herbal Max Real Slim capsules		Sibutramine and Phenolphthalein	Australia Therapeutic Goods Administration
Hingwashtak Churna		High levels of mercury (Toxic heavy metal)	Health Sciences Authority Singapore
Longjack Coffee	Product image not available	Desmethyl carbodenafil (PDE-5 Inhibitors)	United States Food and Drug Administration
Majestic African Mango capsules		Sibutramine and Phenolphthalein	Australia Therapeutic Goods Administration

Name of product	Picture of product	Undeclared potent ingredient(s) found	Source (Regulatory Agency)
Maxidus capsules		Sildenafil (PDE-5 Inhibitors)	Australia Therapeutic Goods Administration
MRS Powerful Type		Sibutramine	Taiwan Food and Drug Administration
Papa Zen		Sildenafil, Tadalafil and Desmethyl Carbodenafil (PDE-5 Inhibitors)	United States Food and Drug Administration
Passion Classic		Yohimbe	Health Canada
Premium Pro Power 3500		Yohimbe bark extract	Health Canada
Premium X Pulse 2000		Yohimbe	Health Canada

Name of product	Picture of product	Undeclared potent ingredient(s) found	Source (Regulatory Agency)
ResErection!		Sildenafil and Tadalafil (PDE-5 Inhibitors)	Health Canada
Rhino 11 Platinum 11000		Sildenafil (PDE-5 Inhibitors)	United States Food and Drug Administration
Rhino 12 Titanium 6000		Sildenafil (PDE-5 Inhibitors)	United States Food and Drug Administration
Rhino 25K 15000		Sildenafil (PDE-5 Inhibitors)	United States Food and Drug Administration
Rhino 69 Premium 8000		Sildenafil (PDE-5 Inhibitors)	United States Food and Drug Administration
Sin Den Slimming		Sibutramine and Phenolphthalein	Hong Kong Department of Health

Name of product	Picture of product	Undeclared potent ingredient(s) found	Source (Regulatory Agency)
S.W.A.G II Platinum 33K		Sildenafil (PDE-5 Inhibitors)	United States Food and Drug Administration
Tyrannosaurus		Sildenafil (PDE-5 Inhibitors)	United States Food and Drug Administration
V9 Male Sexual Stimulant		Sildenafil (PDE-5 Inhibitors)	United States Food and Drug Administration
Vegetable Vigra	Product image not available	Sildenafil (PDE-5 Inhibitors)	United States Food and Drug Administration
德國黑螞蟻		Sildenafil (PDE-5 Inhibitors)	Taiwan Food and Drug Administration
左旋肉鹼		Sibutramine	Taiwan Food and Drug Administration
硬八天		Sildenafil (PDE-5 Inhibitors) and Phenolphthalein	Taiwan Food and Drug Administration

Name of product	Picture of product	Undeclared potent ingredient(s) found	Source (Regulatory Agency)
性高彩烈膠囊		Sildenafil (PDE-5 Inhibitors)	Taiwan Food and Drug Administration
纤塑减肥胶囊		Sibutramine and Phenolphthalein	Hong Kong Department of Health

## **The possible side effects of the undeclared potent ingredients**

### **Bisacodyl**

Bisacodyl is used to treat constipation. The use of bisacodyl has been associated with adverse effects including abdominal discomfort and diarrhoea.

### **Diazepam**

Diazepam is used to treat conditions including anxiety, muscle spasm and seizures. The use of diazepam has been associated with adverse effects, including drowsiness and the loss of control of bodily movements.

### **Phenolphthalein**

Phenolphthalein was used as a laxative in the past, but has not been registered in Singapore since 2011. Phenolphthalein may cause rashes, abdominal cramps, breathing difficulties, kidney disorders and has been found in animal studies to be associated with cancer.

### **Phosphodiesterase Type 5 (PDE-5) Inhibitors**

PDE-5 inhibitors are used to treat male erectile dysfunction and should be used under medical supervision. These class of medicine include sildenafil, tadalafil and desmethyl carbodenafil. These medicines can potentially cause serious adverse effects such as decreased or loss of vision and hearing, strokes, heart attacks and priapism (painful and exceedingly long erections). If priapism is not treated immediately, it may lead to permanent impotence. PDE-5 Inhibitors are also not suitable for patients with medical conditions such as certain heart-related problems or who are on heart medications such as nitrates. Deaths of patients found to be using Sildenafil (PDE-5 Inhibitor) while on nitrates have been reported overseas.

### **Sibutramine**

Sibutramine, previously a prescription-only weight loss drug used in the treatment of obesity, has been disallowed for sale in Singapore since 2010 due to increased risk of heart attacks and strokes. The use of sibutramine has been associated with serious adverse effects, including high blood pressure, irregular heartbeats, hallucinations and mood swings.

### **Toxic Heavy Metals**

Consumption of excessive amounts of toxic heavy metals such as arsenic and mercury poses serious health risks and may increase the chance of poisoning. Possible symptoms of arsenic poisoning include vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhoea, heart-related problems, breathing difficulties and numbness of the limbs. High levels of mercury may cause kidney injury (e.g. protein in urine and edema) and affect the

nervous system (e.g. numbness, tingling, dizziness, forgetfulness, headaches and depression).

### **Yohimbine**

Yohimbine is a potent western medicinal ingredient. Adverse effects associated with yohimbine include insomnia, anxiety, palpitations (sensation of heart pounding, racing or skipped beats), sweating and blurred vision.