



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY  
PRESS RELEASE**

## **HSA AND CHINA'S STATE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION FORGE STRATEGIC ALLIANCE IN DRUG ADMINISTRATION**

Singapore's Health Sciences Authority [HSA] and its regulatory counterpart in China, the State Food and Drug Administration [SFDA], sign a Memorandum of Understanding [MOU] to formalise and further strengthen the strategic alliance and cooperation between the two agencies in drug administration.

2 The Signing Ceremony, which is officiated by Mr Moses Lee, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, is held today, 12 September 03 at HSA Building. The signing of the HSA-SFDA MOU marks a significant milestone for both agencies in terms of international regulatory cooperation. HSA and SFDA, as national drug administration authorities, have similar roles in regulating drugs and health-related products to safeguard public health.

3 In the present climate of increasing globalisation, more and more new innovative products as well as complementary therapeutics will move freely across lowered market barriers. Regulatory decisions are expected to be not just effective and transparent, but should also be made in a timely manner to provide access to medicinal products and protect public health by ensuring their safety, quality and efficacy. Establishing strategic alliances with regulatory counterparts help develop direct communications channels that speed up information exchange and collaboration, particularly in post-market monitoring of product safety and compliance.

4 Dr Tan Chor Hiang, Chief Executive Officer of HSA says, "There is no doubt that by working closely with our overseas strategic partners in our regulatory work, which is based on a risk management approach, our ability to closely manage the risk associated with the products we regulate will be greatly improved. We are confident that the MOU will create the best opportunities for HSA and SFDA to ensure good health outcomes."

### **Scope of MOU**

5 The scope of the HSA-SFDA MOU broadly covers the mutual exchange of information and expertise on drug administration, including Traditional Chinese Medicines [TCM], chemical drugs, biological products and medical devices.

6 The MOU provides for the formation of a joint Committee of Coordination and Liaison that serves as a channel of bilateral cooperation. This Committee may also establish work groups in various areas of cooperation when needed, particularly when the partnership deepens.

### **Plan of Cooperation under the MOU**

7 For a start, a Plan of Cooperation [POC] under the MOU is also signed today. A Work Group will be formed to map out common technical requirements on the safety and quality of TCM. Through the POC under the MOU, both agencies look forward to direct mutual benefits in two main areas:

a] Timely access to regulatory information

Regulatory information on TCM including the control of raw herbs and finished products, adverse drug reaction monitoring and reporting, as well as enforcement of illegal activities pertaining to TCM will be available to both agencies. The strategic exchange of timely information will serve the optimal use of limited resources for maximum public protection.

b] Broadening pool of expertise and knowledge

With the long history of usage of TCM in China from where many TCM products originate, and with the rapid advancement of TCM research in China, the MOU with the SFDA will add to the depth and breadth of HSA's professional expertise and knowledge for the regulation of TCM in Singapore. Inter-agency training and staff attachments will aid the process.

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### **About HSA's Centre for Pharmaceutical Administration**

The Centre for Pharmaceutical Administration [CPA] of HSA is the national agency administering the regulation of drugs and health-related products to safeguard public health. It administers a robust, scientific and responsive regulatory framework which ensures that drugs and health-related products in Singapore meet appropriate standards of safety, quality and efficacy.

### **About the Health Sciences Authority**

At the Health Sciences Authority [HSA], we apply medical, pharmaceutical and specialised scientific expertise to safeguard public health and safety in Singapore. As one multidisciplinary agency, we serve as the national regulator of all therapeutic products by providing a seamless yet rigorous regulatory process to the healthcare

and biomedical sciences industries. We also operate the national blood bank, Bloodbank@HSA, protecting the integrity of the nation's blood supply. As the national reference agency, we exploit specialised scientific, forensic, investigative and analytical capabilities in order to serve the administration of justice and enhance safety in our community. For more details, visit [www.hsa.gov.sg](http://www.hsa.gov.sg).