



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**SINGAPORE, 29 APRIL 2003**

**HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY**  
**PRESS RELEASE**

## **HSA UPDATES ON AUSTRALIA'S RECALL OF VITAMINS, MINERALS AND HERBAL PRODUCTS, 29 APRIL 03**

To date, the Health Sciences Authority [HSA] gives its "all-clear" to the following brand names that are marketed in Singapore:

1. Nature's Way
2. Roche Pharmaceuticals
3. Watsons
4. Watson's The Chemist Ltd.

2 All the products marketed under the above mentioned 4 brand names in the "all-clear" positive list are not produced by *Pan Pharmaceuticals Limited of Sydney, Australia*. In other words, the vitamins, minerals and herbal products of these 4 brand names will not be recalled and their sale in the Singapore market can continue.

3 As mentioned in the press release, dated 28 April 03, "HSA Alerts on Australia's Recall of Vitamins, Minerals and Herbal Products", HSA will provide regular updates to identify and confirm the exportation of the recalled products manufactured by Pan Pharmaceuticals. The updates will include the issuance of the "all-clear" list of brand names, and this exercise will continue until HSA has confirmed all the brand names / products in the local market that are not manufactured by Pan Pharmaceuticals.

### **OPERATION "ALL-CLEAR" ON 3 FRONTS**

4 In view of the large number of products manufactured by Pan Pharmaceuticals, HSA has a 3-pronged approach to establish and verify the "all-clear" list. Firstly, HSA is working closely with its Australian counterpart, the Therapeutic Goods Administration [TGA], secondly, HSA has secured the co-operation of the local suppliers and major distributors, and thirdly, the co-operation at the retailers' level.

5 In HSA's communication with TGA, we are able to confirm today that the Pan Pharmaceuticals' products subjected to recall affect only those manufactured after May 2002. This is the latest date that TGA can assure that Pan Pharmaceuticals complied with the requirements of TGA's quality audits of the manufacturing process and system.

6 On the local front, HSA met with the health supplements associations and major distributors today and secured their cooperation to expeditiously obtain the suppliers' confirmations on the source of their products. This is an additional step to confirm the list of local brand names' products that is not manufactured by Pan Pharmaceuticals.

7 As a proactive measure, the local retailers have been advised to withhold the sale of the brand names that are not cleared by HSA until the sources of supply have been clarified and confirmed.

8 Any members of the trade [suppliers, major distributors, retailers] who require further clarifications may call the following HSA hotline for all trade enquiries:  
Tel: 63255117 / 63255288 (Trade enquiries)

## **NO ADVERSE DRUG REACTIONS**

9 HSA would like to assure the public that up to this time, no reports of serious adverse drug reactions associated with the recalled products have been received locally.

10 The products manufactured by Pan Pharmaceuticals for the Singapore market are non-prescription products and meant only for supplementation of health. Furthermore, HSA has verified with TGA that there is no evidence of intentional adulteration with potent western drugs that can cause serious side effects.

## **CONSUMERS' ADVISORY**

11 Consumers are advised to:

- check the product labels of their health supplement products for information on the source and manufacturer of the products
- refrain from taking those non-essential health products if the labels indicate that the manufacturer is Pan Pharmaceuticals Limited of Sydney, Australia.
- refrain from taking those non-essential health products if the brand names have been mentioned in the HSA 28 April 03 press release and have not been cleared to date.

Should any consumers feel unwell and think that it may be associated with consumption of the affected brands they should contact their healthcare professionals.

12 Members of the public may call the following HSA hotlines for any further queries:

**Tel: 63255424 / 63255498 / 63255604 / 63252432 (Public enquiries)**

**Email: [hsa\\_info@hsa.gov.sg](mailto:hsa_info@hsa.gov.sg)**

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