



SINGAPORE, 5 APRIL 2004
HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY

PRESS RELEASE

HSA ALERTS ON AN ILLEGAL JAMU PRODUCT LABELLED AS "PIL AJAIB CAP EMAS, PENGUAT URAT SARAF" FOUND ADULTERATED WITH POTENT WESTERN MEDICINAL INGREDIENTS

The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) advises the public not to consume an illegal jamu product labelled as "**Pil Ajaib Cap Emas, Penguat Urat Saraf**". The sample of the product tested has been found to contain two potent western medicinal ingredients, indomethacin and dexamethasone, which are regulated under the Poisons Act.

TWO ADVERSE DRUG REACTIONS DETECTED

2 HSA initiated investigations on "Pil Ajaib Cap Emas" when two Adverse Drug Reaction (ADR) reports were received by the Pharmacovigilance Unit of HSA's Centre for Drug Administration. The patients were reported to have Cushing's syndrome (a hormonal disorder caused by prolonged exposure of the body's tissues to high level of steroids) suspected to be associated with their usage of "Pil Ajaib Cap Emas".

3 Analytical tests performed by HSA's Centre for Analytical Science revealed the presence of two potent western medicinal ingredients, indomethacin and dexamethasone, in this particular jamu product.

4 Based on the information reported, the patients obtained the product "Pil Ajaib Cap Emas" from outside Singapore. On its product label, "Pil Ajaib Cap Emas" claims to be a remedy for the treatment of joint and bone pains, rheumatism, nerve disorders and to improve overall physical immunity. *[Please refer to Annex A for the picture and details of the affected product.]*

5 Although the product carries a Malaysian health product registration number, HSA has confirmed with its Malaysian counterpart that the product is not an approved product in Malaysia. Our market surveillance also confirms that this product is not sold in local retail outlets.

ADULTERANTS ARE SUBSTANCES CONTROLLED UNDER POISONS ACT

6 Indomethacin and dexamethasone are potent medicinal ingredients. Indomethacin is an anti-inflammatory agent used for the treatment of joint pains and arthritis and can cause gastric bleeding and blood disorders. Dexamethasone is a corticosteroid used in the treatment of allergic disorders and inflammatory conditions. Prolonged consumption of dexamethasone can cause hypertension, osteoporosis, gastric bleeding, Cushing's syndrome and hyperglycaemia.

7 Medicines containing indomethacin or dexamethasone can only be supplied on a doctor's prescription and need to be taken under the close supervision of a doctor.

8 Both substances are controlled under the Poisons Act. It is an offence to import, sell or offer for sale any product containing a poison without a licence issued by HSA. Anyone found guilty of an offence under the Poisons Act is liable on conviction, to a fine of up to \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term of up to 2 years or to both.

CONSUMER ADVISORY: A REMINDER ON SAFE SELF- MEDICATION

9 HSA advises members of the public who are taking "Pil Ajaib Cap Emas" to stop using it immediately and seek medical advice from their doctors. Concerned public members who have consumed the product can also call HSA's drug enquiry line at Tel: 6325.5604 during office hours for advice. Persons who come across this product being illegally sold are requested to report to HSA's Compliance Branch at Tel: 6325.5412 during office hours or Fax: 6325.5628.

10 Consumers, when considering self-medication, need to be better informed and make discerning choices on their purchases. Consumers are reminded not to purchase any medicinal products, including traditional herbal remedies, from dubious sources such as unfamiliar individuals and unlicensed premises as well as over the Internet from foreign or unknown websites as the safety, efficacy and quality of such products cannot be vouched for.

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About HSA's Centre for Drug Administration

The Centre for Drug Administration [CDA] of HSA is the national agency administering the pre- and post-marketing regulation of drugs, innovative therapeutics and health-related products to safeguard public health. It also contributes to the formulation of national drug policies.

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).

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ANNEX A

1 PHOTOGRAPH OF "PIL AJAIB CAP EMAS, PENGUAT URAT SARAF"



CLOSE-UP OF STICKER LABEL ON PRODUCT:

KHASIAT:- 1. Menghilangkan sakit pinggang, sakit-sakit bahu & sakit lutut. 2. Menguatkan badan dan tenaga. 3. Membuangkan segala jenis angin-angin sesat. 4. Memulihkan penyakit kebas kaki tangan. 5. Menambah tenaga asli dan batin.	CARAMAKAN: Dewasa 2 biji sekali makan. Satu hari 2 kali dan minum air yang berlebihan		KOMPOSIS: Ubi Jaba.....10% Tongkat Ali.....10% Madu Lebah.....10% Halia.....10% Halba.....10%	Komkoma.....10% Bunga Pala.....10% Kayu Emas.....10% Rempah Ratus.....10% Kulit Manis.....10%	Batch No : CA 9318 Mfg. Date : Jan 2002 Exp. Date : Dec 2005 K. K. L. I. U. : 3708/90/H.J. BPFK : 28/7292-163-T Diperolehkan: PERUSAHAAN PERUBATAN TRADISIONAL MELAYU 166, Jalan Masjid, Taman Sentosa, 15000 Kota Bharu, Kelantan
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2 DETAILS FOUND ON PROUDCT LABEL OF "PIL AJAIB CAP EMAS, PENGUAT URAT SARAF"

Product Name	Ingredients as stated on the label	Labelled Indications (in Malay language)	Distributor as stated on the label
Pil Ajaib Cap Emas, Penguat Urat Saraf	Ubi Jaba 10% Tongkat Ali 10% Madu Lebah 10% Halia 10% Haiba 10% Komkoma 10% Bunga Pala 10% Rempah Ratus 10% Lulit Manis 10%	1. Menghilangkan sakit pinggang, sakit-sakit bahu & sakit lutut. 2. Menguatkan badan dan tenaga. 3. Membuangkan segala jenis angin-angin sesat. 4. Memulihkan penyakit kebas kaki tangan 5. Menambah tenaga asli dan batin Cara makan: Dewasa 2 biji sekali makan. Satu hari 2 kali dan minum air yang berlebihan.	Perusahaan Perubatan Tradisional Melayu 168 Jalan Masjid Taman Sentosa 15000 Kota Behru Kelantan

English translations for easy reference:

Product Name: Gold Brand Magic Pill, Nerve Strengthenener

Labelled indications:

1. Remove back pain, shoulder pain and knee pain
2. Strengthen body and energy
3. Eliminate all kinds of trapped winds
4. Heal numbness of hands and legs
5. Increase natural and internal energy

Dosing Instruction:

Adult 2 pills each time. Twice a day and drink plenty of water.