



SINGAPORE, 19 DECEMBER 2018

HSA UPDATES

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

HSA UPDATES NO 9/2018

HSA UPDATES ON OVERSEAS RECALL OF ANGIOTENSIN II RECEPTOR BLOCKERS

In recent months, several overseas regulatory agencies have conducted recalls of certain products belonging to a class of medicines known as angiotensin II receptor blockers (ARBs) due to the detection of N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA) and N-Nitrosodiethylamine (NDEA).

2 The ARB class of medicines is used for the control of high blood pressure and include valsartan, losartan, candesartan, fimasartan, irbesartan and olmesartan. The recalls were conducted as the affected ARBs contained unacceptable levels of these impurities. Studies conducted in animals have shown that prolonged consumption of these impurities may increase the occurrence of cancer.

Local situation

3 To safeguard public health, the Health Sciences Authority (HSA) has been testing the ARBs marketed in Singapore for the presence of NDMA and NDEA. To-date, none of the marketed ARBs that were tested by HSA has been detected to contain unacceptable levels of NDMA or NDEA. Hence, Singapore is not affected by the product recalls overseas.

4 While the ARB medicines that are available in Singapore are not affected, HSA will continue to monitor the local situation and update the public if there are any new findings.

Patient advisory

5 Patients should continue to take their ARB medicines unless otherwise advised by their doctors. ARBs are used for the treatment of high blood pressure. If untreated, it may lead to heart attacks and stroke.

**HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY
SINGAPORE
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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/>.

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▪ **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 click “News & Events”, and select “HSA Updates”.

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