



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY  
PRESS RELEASE  
26 SEPTEMBER 2019**

## **HSA ALERT: 'S GOLD COFFEE' SOLD ONLINE FOUND TO CONTAIN BANNED SUBSTANCE**

The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) is alerting members of the public not to purchase or consume 'S Gold Coffee' sold online as they have been tested to contain sibutramine, a banned substance. Please refer to [\*\*Annex A\*\*](#) for photos of the product.

### **BANNED SUBSTANCE SIBUTRAMINE DETECTED IN THE PRODUCT**

2 HSA was alerted to the online sale of 'S Gold Coffee' by a member of the public, who became suspicious when her appetite was suppressed significantly after consuming 'S Gold Coffee'. The product is sold on social media platforms and local e-commerce websites for slimming. HSA has directed the respective local website administrators to remove the postings.

3 HSA's tests revealed that the product contained sibutramine, which used to be a prescription medicine for weight loss but has been banned in Singapore since 2010 due to an increased risk of heart attacks and strokes. The product marketing materials had advised that insomnia is a common reaction when taking this product, and that experiencing headache and heart palpitations showed that "the product is working towards internal detoxing and helps to improve blood circulation". In fact, these are known side effects of the banned sibutramine, which the sellers are misleading consumers into believing, are beneficial effects of the product.

### **ADVISORY TO CONSUMERS**

4 Consumers are advised to stop taking 'S Gold Coffee' immediately and see a doctor if they feel unwell or are concerned about their health. Consumers are also advised to be wary of products that make exaggerated claims such as "inhibition of cancer cell growth" and "reducing the risk of developing colon cancer"

## **ADVISORY TO SELLERS AND SUPPLIERS**

5 All sellers and suppliers must stop selling 'S Gold Coffee' immediately. It is illegal to sell and supply such products, which contain potent medicinal ingredients or banned substances. Sellers and suppliers are liable to prosecution and if convicted, may be imprisoned for up to 2 years and/or fined up to \$5,000.

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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/>.

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's Health Products Regulation Group**

The Health Products Regulation Group (HPRG) of HSA ensures that drugs, innovative therapeutics, medical devices and health-related products are wisely regulated and meet appropriate safety, quality and efficacy standards. It contributes to the development of biomedical sciences in Singapore by administering a robust, scientific and responsive regulatory framework.

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**Box and sachets of 'S Gold Coffee'**



**Front of box**



## Back of box



