



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY
PRESS RELEASE**

17 June 2009

**TWO ILLEGAL PRODUCTS
“DELIMA RAJA URAT” AND “CAO GEN BAI LIN WAN” [草根百齡丸]
DETECTED TO CONTAIN UNDECLARED POTENT SUBSTANCES**

The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) warns members of the public not to take two illegal health products detected to contain potent western medicinal substances. The first product is packaged as a Malay Jamu medicine labelled “Delima Raja Urat” and the second product is presented as a Chinese medicine labelled “Cao Gen Bai Lin Wan [草根百齡丸]”.

2 Two separate reports of serious adverse drug reactions were received from two general practitioners. Upon analytical testings by HSA’s Pharmaceutical Laboratory, potent western medicinal substances have been detected in the two products.

3 Both products, “Delima Raja Urat” and “Cao Gen Bai Lin Wan” were bought from overseas by the patients and have not been found to be sold locally at retail shops. Members of the public should not consume any stocks of these products that they may have in their possession.

About the Products

4 “Delima Raja Urat” is tested to contain four potent undeclared western medicinal substances, namely dexamethasone, chlorpheniramine, pheniramine and sibutramine. The product is packaged in small plastic containers and its label makes claims to treat back pain, muscle pain, numbness, weakness and gout. (See Annex A 1 and 2 for the photograph of this particular product and its labelling.)

5 “Cao Gen Bai Lin Wan [草根百齡丸]” is tested to contain two undeclared potent western medicinal substances, namely dexamethasone and chlorpheniramine. The product is presented as Chinese traditional medicine and packaged in blister-foil and paper box with label claims for relaxing muscles, improving blood circulation and relieving pain”. (See Annex A 1 and 3 for photograph of this particular product and its labelling.)

About the Adverse Drug Reactions

6 The first report is of a female patient who took the adulterated “Delima Raja Urat” for more than one month for pain relief. The patient subsequently suffered symptoms of raised blood sugar level, which developed into diabetes mellitus.

7 The second report is of an elderly man who took “Cao Gen Bai Lin Wan” for more than two months to relieve joint pain. He developed symptoms such as increased blood pressure, rapid weight gain, facial flushing and thinning of skin.

8 The symptoms seen in these two patients are consistent with the adverse effects of dexamethasone, a potent corticosteroid used to treat inflammatory conditions such as arthritis and asthma. The unsupervised and prolonged usage of dexamethasone is associated with serious adverse reactions such as muscle and bone damage, increased blood sugar, increased blood pressure, increased cholesterol and mental and mood disorders.

9 Chlorpheniramine and pheniramine are antihistamines used to treat allergy symptoms. Adverse effects associated with antihistamines include drowsiness, urinary retention, dry mouth, blurred vision, confusion and gastro-intestinal problems.

10 Sibutramine, an appetite suppressant used to treat obesity, has been associated with serious adverse effects such as increased heartbeat, increased blood pressure, hallucination and vision problems.

Public Advisory

11 HSA strongly advises anyone who has purchased these products not to consume them. In the event that they have consumed these products, they should seek medical advice if they feel unwell or are concerned about their health.

12 In the interest of public health and safety, HSA would like to highlight to consumers the risk of buying medicines and health products from dubious sources, locally or overseas, as there is no guarantee on the safety of these products. Consumers who develop any unexpected reactions to health products are advised to inform their doctors.

13 Anyone who comes across “Delima Raja Urat” or “Cao Gen Bai Lin Wan” being sold illegally is encouraged to report to HSA’s Enforcement Branch at **Tel: 6866 3485** (24-hour line) or **Email: hsa_is@hsa.gov.sg**

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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, 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. It operates the national blood bank, Bloodbank@HSA, securing the nation's 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/>.

- **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.

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1. Photograph of Delima Raja Urat and Cao Gen Bai Lin Wan



2. Product Labelling of Delima Raja Urat

Labelling in English:

Product name	Delima Raja Urat
Manufacturer / Distributor	Toko Jamu Tri Andara Pasar Borong Pandan, Johor Bahru, Johor
Ingredients	Not listed
Indications as on label	Pill Jamu for muscle pain, backache, weak muscle bone, knee pain, leg and hand numbness, gout Also formulated for those who suffer from tiredness and asthma
Instruction for dosage	1 tablet twice daily

Labelling in Malay:

Product name	Delima Raja Urat
Manufacturer / Distributor	Toko Jamu Tri Andara Pasar Borong Pandan, Johor Bahru, Johor
Ingredients	Not listed
Indications as on label	Jamu pil untuk sakit urat, sakit pinggang, lenguh, sendi tulang, sakit lutut, kebas kaki tangan dan gout, Juga dirumus bagi penghidap penyakit penat dan lelah
Instruction for dosage	1 Biji Dua Kali Sehari

3. Product Labelling of Cao Gen Bai Lin Wan [草根百齡丸]

Labelling in English:

Product name	Cao Gen Bai Lin Wan
Manufacturer / Distributor	OIS (M) Sdn Bhd Lot 7, Persiaran Perusahaan Seksyen 28, 40300 Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia
Indications as on label	Relaxing muscles, improving blood circulation and relieving pain
Instruction for dosage	2-3 times a day, 2 pills each time, to be taken with warm water

Labelling in Chinese:

Product name	草根百齡丸
Indications as on label	风湿骨痛, 腰酸背痛, 腿膝浮肿, 屈伸艰难, 关节发炎, 痛风, 肌肉疼痛等症
Instruction for dosage	每日二次至三次, 每次二粒, 饭后温水送服