



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY
PRESS RELEASE**

6 MAY 2010

HSA WARNS AGAINST TAKING AN AFFECTED BATCH OF "ZHONGYA BRAND TZEPAO SANPIEN PILL"(中亚牌至宝三鞭丸) FOUND TO CONTAIN EXCESSIVE LEVELS OF LEAD

The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) has detected excessive levels of lead in a batch of Chinese Proprietary Medicine (CPM) labelled “Zhongya Brand Tzepao Sanpien Pill” (中亚牌至宝三鞭丸) during HSA’s regular product quality sampling checks for marketed health products. Lead, when consumed in large amounts or over a prolonged period of time, may result in lead toxicity and the symptoms may include abdominal pain, vomiting, muscle weakness and cramps.

2 “Zhongya Brand Tzepao Sanpien Pill” is manufactured by Yantai Zhongya Pharmaceutical Co Ltd, China and distributed locally by Sea Gull Trading (Pte) Ltd. One batch of this product (B/N 551001) was tested by HSA's Pharmaceutical Laboratory to contain about 40ppm (parts per million) of lead, which exceeds the legal permissible limit of 20ppm allowed for CPM in Singapore. This batch of CPM has been sold by medical halls between December 2009 to April 2010. The sale of this affected batch has since been stopped and medical halls have already been informed to remove the affected stocks from the shelves.

3 To date, no adverse events associated with this product have been reported to HSA. However, as the affected batch has been marketed locally, HSA is warning members of the public who may have bought this batch to stop consuming it as it may potentially cause serious health hazards when taken on a long term basis.

About the Product

4 “Zhongya Brand Tzepao Sanpien Pill” is regulated as a CPM and is marketed to strengthen vital energy and brain functions. The product label of “Zhongya Brand Tzepao Sanpien Pill” claims that it can be used for a variety of conditions such as back pain, anaemia, pale complexion and poor vitality. (See Annex A for the photograph and product labeling of this particular product).

Lead

5 Lead is a toxic heavy metal that accumulates in the body and is very slowly removed from the body. It can be dangerous when consumed in large amounts or over a prolonged period of time. People with high blood levels of lead may or may not show any symptoms, but long term consumption of lead can cause anaemia, joint and muscle pain, brain and kidney damage.

Public Advisory

6 HSA strongly advises consumers who have purchased the affected batch of “Zhongya Brand Tzepao Sanpien Pill” not to consume them. HSA also advises members of the public not to consume the pills if they are in doubt of the product batch they have in their possession.

7 Consumers who have consumed the affected batch should consult a doctor if they experience symptoms of lead toxicity (eg, abdominal pain, vomiting, muscle weakness, cramps) or feel unwell. Consumers should also seek medical advice if they have concerns over their health after taking this product.

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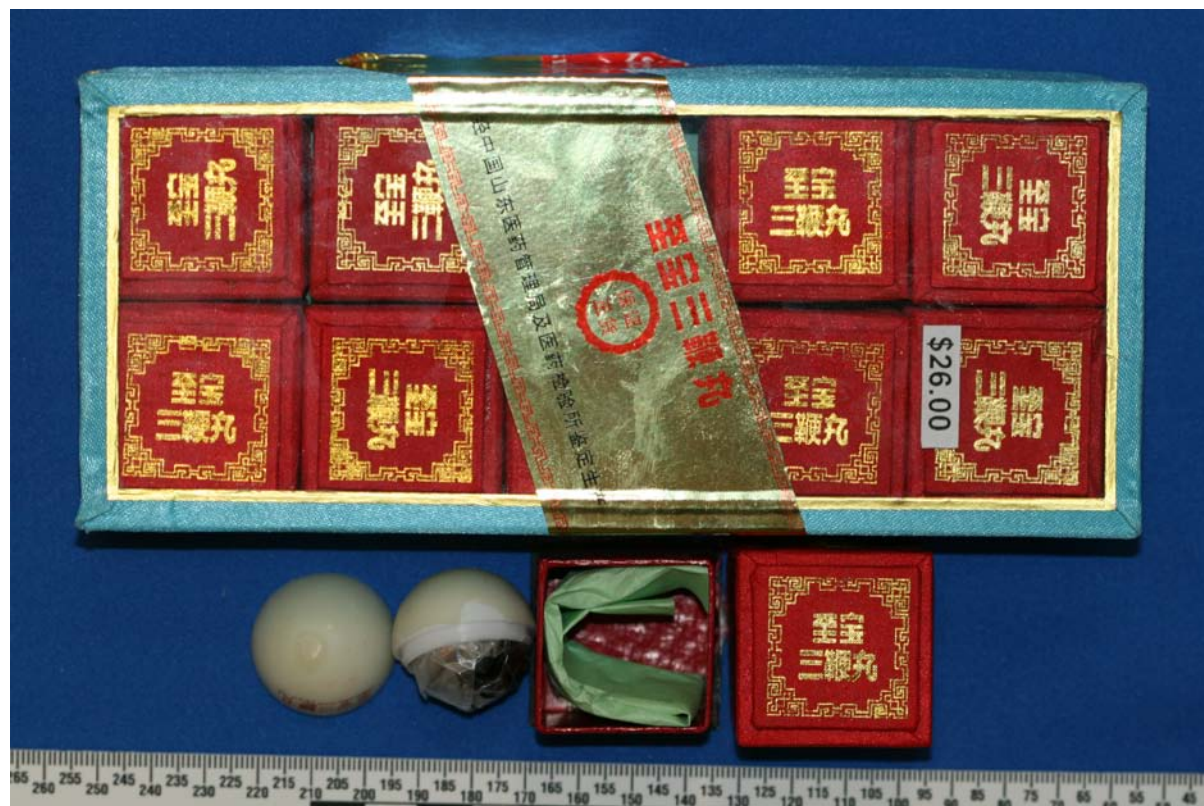
▪ **About the Health Sciences Authority (HSA)**

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 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.

1. Photograph of “Zhongya Brand Tzepao Sanpien Pill” (中亚牌至宝三鞭丸)



2. Product Labelling

Product Name	Zhongya Brand Tzepao Sanpien Pill (中亚牌至宝三鞭丸)
Manufacturer	Yantai Zhongya Pharmaceutical Co Ltd, China
Ingredients (as labelled on outermost box)	<p>Each outer box contains 10 smaller inner boxes (which may be sold individually). Each small inner box contains a white round plastic casing, which in turn contains a black pill of 6.25g each.</p> <p><u>Ingredients (mg/pill):</u></p> <p>鹿茸 Cornu Cervi Pantotrichum 312.5mg 肉桂 Cortex Cinnamomi 187.5mg 蛇床子 Fructus Cnidii 125mg 补骨脂 Fructus Psoraleae 250mg 覆盆子 Fructus Rubi 250mg 蛤蚧 Gecko 312.5mg 淫羊藿 Herba Epimedii 250mg 海马 Hippocampus 625mg</p>

	<p>蜂蜜 Honey (Mel) 250mg 沉香 Lignum Aquilariae Resinatum 125mg 桑螵蛸 Ootheca Mantidis 250mg 龙骨 Os Draconis 125mg 花椒 Pericarpium Zanthoxyli 250mg 牛膝 Radix Achyranthis Bidentatae 250mg 人参 Radix Et Rhizoma Ginseng(Panax Ginseng) 437.5mg 远志 Radix Polygalae 125mg 菟丝子 Semen Cuscutae 250mg 海狗鞭 Testis Et Penis Callorhini 625mg 狗鞭 Testis Et Penis Canis 625mg 鹿鞭 Testis Et Penis Cervi 625mg 阳起石 Tremenolium 125mg</p>
<p>Actions and Indications (as labelled on outermost box)</p>	<p>Actions: Strengthens vital energy and cerebral functions 强身健脑，益气补血 Indications: General debility pains in the back and loins, overburden of the brain, anemia, vertigo, tiredness of limbs, pale complexion, feeble in vitality, appetite, decline of memory 体质虚弱，腰背酸痛，用脑过度，贫血头晕，四肢乏力，面色苍白，气虚食减，记忆衰退</p>
<p>Instruction for dosage (as labelled on outermost box)</p>	<p>1 pill each time daily to be taken with warm boiled water before food or bedtime, suitable for either sex 每服一丸 (6.25g) 每日一次,早饭前或临睡前白开水送服，男女均适服用</p>