



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY  
PRESS RELEASE  
20 APRIL 2018**

## **HSA ALERT: 18 COSMETIC PRODUCTS DETECTED TO CONTAIN POTENT UNDECLARED INGREDIENTS INCLUDING HIGH LEVELS OF MERCURY**

The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) is alerting members of the public not to purchase or use 18 cosmetic products that were tested by HSA to contain potent undeclared ingredients. Some of these products were found with high levels of mercury, including some which exceeded the permissible limit by over 27,000 times. Other potent ingredients found include hydroquinone and tretinoin, which could lead to serious adverse reactions. Please refer to **Annex A** for the names and pictures of the products.

2 The findings resulted from HSA's regular product quality surveillance activities where health products marketed locally are sampled for testing. These cosmetic products were sold at retail outlets and on various online platforms purportedly for skin whitening and anti-acne, and were claimed to "improve complexion" and "even out skin tone". HSA has initiated the recall of the affected products from retail outlets, and has directed the administrators of online sales platforms to remove web listings of the affected products.

### **POTENT INGREDIENTS FOUND IN THESE PRODUCTS**

3 Mercury is a toxic heavy metal and is prohibited for use as an ingredient in cosmetic products. Regular application of creams containing mercury could lead to rash, skin discolouration and blotching while long-term exposure to high levels of mercury in cosmetic products can cause serious health consequences, including damage to the kidneys, digestive and nervous systems.

4 Hydroquinone and tretinoin are potent ingredients used in western prescription medicines for treatment of skin conditions. These ingredients are prohibited in skincare cosmetic products and should only be used under strict medical supervision. Inappropriate use of hydroquinone could result in changes in skin colour and adverse skin reactions such as rashes, redness and burning of the skin. Tretinoin, when used inappropriately, could lead to redness and peeling of skin.

### **CONSUMER ADVISORY**

5 Consumers are advised to:

- Stop using any of the 18 cosmetic products immediately and discard them as they contain high levels of mercury or other undeclared potent ingredients that can lead to serious adverse reactions. See a doctor if you are experiencing adverse effects.
- Be cautious when purchasing cosmetic products online or from unfamiliar sources, even if they are recommended by friends or relatives. You cannot be certain what these products contain, and where and how they were made. It is advisable to buy such products from reliable and reputable sources such as registered pharmacies or established retail stores, and their respective e-commerce platforms.
- Be wary of cosmetic products that promises quick and miraculous results or carry exaggerated claims such as skin whitening within a short period of time. Such products may contain prescription medicines which should only be used under medical supervision, or contain dangerously high levels of toxic substances such as mercury that may harm you.

## **ADVISORY TO SELLERS AND SUPPLIERS**

6 Sellers and suppliers are warned that:

- The supply of these cosmetic products must be stopped immediately as they contain prohibited western medicinal ingredients or mercury at levels that exceed the permissible limits.
- It is their responsibility to ensure that the cosmetic products they are selling are safe for use, do not contain prohibited substances, and comply with Singapore's regulatory requirements including notifying HSA prior to sale and supply.
- Anyone who supplies illegal health products is liable to prosecution and if convicted, may be imprisoned for up to 3 years and/or fined up to \$100,000.
- HSA will not hesitate to take enforcement actions against sellers and suppliers who peddle illegal health products.

7 Members of the public who have any information on the sale and supply of these cosmetic products may contact HSA's Enforcement Branch at Tel: 6866-3485 during office hours (Monday to Friday) or email: [hsa\\_is@hsa.gov.sg](mailto:hsa_is@hsa.gov.sg).

**HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY  
SINGAPORE  
20 APRIL 2018**

---

### **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.

**HSA ALERT: 18 COSMETIC PRODUCTS DETECTED TO CONTAIN  
POTENT UNDECLARED INGREDIENTS INCLUDING  
HIGH LEVELS OF MERCURY**

Product	Undeclared Ingredients
<p data-bbox="384 528 858 562">Balleza SKINCARE NIGHT CREAM</p> 	<p data-bbox="1177 703 1289 736">Mercury</p>
<p data-bbox="397 960 845 994">Balleza SKINCARE TREATMENT</p> 	<p data-bbox="1139 1137 1329 1171">Hydroquinone</p>

Brilliant Skin Essentials Rejuvenating Cream Exfoliant Cream



Hydroquinone and  
Tretinoin

Brilliant Skin Essentials Rejuvenating Facial Toner Exfoliant Toner



Hydroquinone and  
Tretinoin

Brilliant Skin Essentials Whitening Cream 10g



Hydroquinone and  
Tretinoin

Brilliant Skin Essentials Whitening facial toner 60ml



Hydroquinone



droplets of Nature. REJUVENATING CREAM Lift & Correct 10g  
2RJJS



Hydroquinone and  
Tretinoin

droplets of Nature. REJUVENATING TONER Lift & Correct  
60mL 4RJJS



Hydroquinone

Goree Beauty Cream with Lycopene with SPF 30 Avocado & Aloe Vera



Mercury

Karisma Cosmetic SKINCARE Day Cream



Mercury



Karisma Cosmetic SKINCARE Night Cream



Mercury

Karisma Cosmetic SKINCARE Treatment Cream



Hydroquinone and  
Tretinoin

Professional Skin Care Formula by Dr. Alvin Rejuvenating Cream



Hydroquinone and  
Tretinoin

Professional Skin Care Formula by Dr. Alvin Rejuvenating Toner



Hydroquinone and Tretinoin

Skin Magical Rejuvenating Cream No. 1



Hydroquinone and Tretinoin

Skin Magical Rejuvenating Facial Toner No. 1



Hydroquinone and  
Tretinoin

Speaks G Skin Essential Brightening Rejuvenating Cream 10g



Hydroquinone and  
Tretinoin



Speaks G Skin Essential Brightening Rejuvenating Toner 60ml



Hydroquinone and  
Tretinoin