

HSA updates on products found overseas that contain potent ingredients (April 2020)

The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) would like to update the public on products that have been found and reported by overseas regulators in April 2020 to contain potent ingredients which are not allowed in these products and may cause side effects. This information is provided to increase awareness on safety issues of such products found overseas, which may impact the local population. Please refer to Annex A and Annex B for the list of products and the possible side effects of the potent ingredients.

HSA's Advisory

- 2 Members of the public are advised to:
 - Consult a doctor if you have consumed any of the products and are feeling unwell.
 - Avoid buying any of the products when abroad.
 - Exercise caution when purchasing health products online or from sources (either local or overseas) which you may not be familiar with, even if well-meaning friends or relatives have recommended them. You cannot be certain where and how these products were made. They may be illegal, counterfeit or substandard, and may contain potent ingredients which can harm your health. If buying health products online, we encourage you to buy them from websites with an established retail presence in Singapore.
 - Be wary of products that promise quick and miraculous results or carry exaggerated claims like “100% safe”, “no side effects” or “scientifically proven”. Consumers should also be cautious of products that produce unexpected quick recovery of medical conditions.
 - Consult your doctor or pharmacist if you need help for the management of your acute and chronic medical symptoms and conditions (e.g. diabetes, hypertension, eczema).

- 3 Additionally, members of the public are encouraged to visit <https://www.hsa.gov.sg/consumer-safety/> to learn more about the dangers of buying health products from dubious sources.

- 4 Members of the public who come across the sale and supply of these products in Singapore may contact HSA's Enforcement Branch at Tel: 6866 3485 during office hours (Monday to Friday) or email: hsa_is@hsa.gov.sg.


Annex A



List of Products

Note: There may be different versions or variants of the products listed below. You are advised to consult your doctor or pharmacist if you are unsure of any health product you intend to use, or if you need help for your acute and chronic medical symptoms and conditions




Name of product	Picture of product	Potent ingredient(s)	Source (Regulatory Agency)
Black Mamba Premium 18000		Tadalafil (PDE-5 inhibitor)	United States Food and Drug Administration
CATTLE CAPSULE (牛寶膠囊)		Sildenafil (PDE-5 inhibitor)	Taiwan Food and Drug Administration

Name of product	Picture of product	Potent ingredient(s)	Source (Regulatory Agency)
			
Dark Horse Capsules		Sildenafil (PDE-5 inhibitor)	Australia Therapeutic Goods Administration
Effects of Viagra (特效伟哥)		Sildenafil (PDE-5 inhibitor)	Taiwan Food and Drug Administration

Name of product	Picture of product	Potent ingredient(s)	Source (Regulatory Agency)
Force G Men's Power tablets	 <p>The image shows the packaging for Force G Men's Power tablets. At the top, there are several red, diamond-shaped capsules. Below them are two blister packs, each containing six capsules. At the bottom, there are two boxes of the product. The top box is white with blue and red accents, featuring a silhouette of a man and the text 'Force G Men's Power'. The bottom box is white with blue and red accents, featuring the text 'Force G' and 'Long Lasting Enduring Ability'.</p>	Sildenafil and Tadalafil (PDE-5 inhibitors)	Australia Therapeutic Goods Administration
JAPAN TENGUSU (日本騰素)	 <p>The image shows the packaging for Japan Tengsu. The box is white with green and red accents. It features the text 'MADE IN JAPAN' and 'NDC-0068-5589-8'. Below this, there is a red circle with a white dot, followed by the text '日本騰素' and 'ニホントウソ'. The English text 'JAPAN TENGUSU' is prominently displayed. Below this, it says 'Applicable To: People suffering with impotence, premature ejaculation, or poor sexual life, or poor erection'. At the bottom, it says '片劑 0.5g /Tablet'. The manufacturer is listed as 'Shige Pharmaceutical Ltd., Japan' and the distributor as 'Northeast Pharmacy, Kin, Hong Kong, China'.</p>	Ciprofloxacin and Sildenafil (PDE-5 inhibitor)	Taiwan Food and Drug Administration

Name of product	Picture of product	Potent ingredient(s)	Source (Regulatory Agency)
			
JJ Skincare Glowwhite Night Cream		Hydroquinone	Malaysia National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency



Name of product	Picture of product	Potent ingredient(s)	Source (Regulatory Agency)
Mahad Exiter Whitening Cream	 <p>The top image shows the lid of the cream jar. It has a yellow background with a red border. The text on the lid includes 'MAHAD' in a stylized font, 'ครีมขาวขมิ้น' (Cream White Turmeric) in Thai, and 'MAHAD AHA BODY CREAM' in English. There is also a small image of a plant and a phone number '10-1-601009411'.</p> <p>The bottom image shows the jar of the cream. It has a white lid and a yellow body. The text on the jar includes 'MAHAD' in a stylized font, 'Exiter whitening cream' in English, and 'White & Bright booster Body whitening cream' in English.</p>	Clobetasol propionate	Thailand Food and Drug Administration

Name of product	Picture of product	Potent ingredient(s)	Source (Regulatory Agency)
	 		
Mojo Black capsules		Tadalafil (PDE-5 inhibitor)	Australia Therapeutic Goods Administration

Name of product	Picture of product	Potent ingredient(s)	Source (Regulatory Agency)
S Girl (獨家減脂膠囊)	 	Sibutramine	Taiwan Food and Drug Administration
Sifu Kunit Day Cream		Hydroquinone, Tretinoin and Betamethasone 17-Valerate	Malaysia National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency
Sifu Kunit Night Cream	NA	Betamethasone 17-Valerate	Malaysia National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency





Name of product	Picture of product	Potent ingredient(s)	Source (Regulatory Agency)
Seven Day Slim Capsules		Diclofenac and Lidocaine	Australia Therapeutic Goods Administration
shengjingpian (生精片)		Ciprofloxacin and Sildenafil (PDE-5 inhibitor)	Taiwan Food and Drug Administration

Name of product	Picture of product	Potent ingredient(s)	Source (Regulatory Agency)
			
<p>U.S.A. BLACK GOLD (美國黑金)</p>		<p>Ciprofloxacin and Sildenafil (PDE-5 inhibitor)</p>	<p>Taiwan Food and Drug Administration</p>

Name of product	Picture of product	Potent ingredient(s)	Source (Regulatory Agency)
Vigour 800 tablets		Sildenafil (PDE-5 inhibitor)	Australia Therapeutic Goods Administration
VM Double white lotion		Clobetasol propionate	Thailand Food and Drug Administration

Name of product	Picture of product	Potent ingredient(s)	Source (Regulatory Agency)
White Way Nano White Body Lotion		Clobetasol propionate	Thailand Food and Drug Administration

Name of product	Picture of product	Potent ingredient(s)	Source (Regulatory Agency)
伟力		Sildenafil (PDE-5 inhibitor)	Taiwan Food and Drug Administration
德国黑金刚		Ciprofloxacin and Sildenafil (PDE-5 inhibitor)	Taiwan Food and Drug Administration
精刚壮增大丸		Sildenafil (PDE-5 inhibitor)	Taiwan Food and Drug Administration

Name of product	Picture of product	Potent ingredient(s)	Source (Regulatory Agency)
	 		
不明藥錠	 	Sildenafil (PDE-5 inhibitor)	Taiwan Food and Drug Administration

Annex B

The possible side effects of the potent ingredients

Betamethasone 17-valerate

Betamethasone is a potent steroid. Long term use of an oral steroid without medical supervision can cause high blood pressure, cataracts, an increased risk of infections, and Cushing's syndrome (characterised by the appearance of round face or 'moon face' and upper body obesity with thin limbs).

Ciprofloxacin

Ciprofloxacin is an antibiotic used to treat a number of bacterial infections. It is a prescription medicine and should be used under medical supervision. Common side effects include nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea and rash. Severe side effects include an increased risk of tendon rupture, hallucinations and nerve damage.

Clobetasol propionate

Clobetasol propionate is a potent steroid that is usually prescribed for inflammatory conditions and should only be used under strict medical supervision. Common side effects include skin irritation, pimples, redness and dry skin. Long term use without medical supervision can cause an increased risk of infections, allergic reactions and Cushing's syndrome (characterised by the appearance of round face or 'moon face' and upper body obesity with thin limbs).

Diclofenac

Diclofenac is a potent painkiller and may potentially cause cardiovascular events such as heart attacks and strokes, as well as serious gastric bleeding, when used for a prolonged period. It should be used under close medical supervision, especially in patients with underlying heart conditions, stomach bleeding and ulceration.

Hydroquinone

Hydroquinone is a potent ingredient used in prescription medicines for the treatment of skin conditions. The ingredient is prohibited in skincare cosmetic products and should only be used under medical supervision, as hydroquinone may cause harmful effects if not used properly. The inappropriate use of hydroquinone could result in changes in skin colour and hypersensitivity reactions such as rashes, redness, tingling and burning of skin.

Lidocaine

Lidocaine is a medicine used to decrease or eliminate the feeling of pain. The inappropriate use of products with high concentrations of lidocaine can cause low blood pressure and dizziness.

Phosphodiesterase Type 5 (PDE-5) inhibitors

This class of medicine includes sildenafil and tadalafil. These medicines can cause serious side effects such as strokes, heart attacks, decreased or loss of vision and hearing and priapism (painful and exceedingly long erections). If priapism is not treated immediately, it may lead to permanent impotence. PDE-5 inhibitors are also not suitable for patients with medical conditions such as certain heart-related problems or who are on heart medications such as nitrates. Deaths of patients found to be using sildenafil while on nitrates have been reported overseas.

Sibutramine

Sibutramine, previously a prescription weight loss medicine used in the treatment of obesity, has been disallowed for sale in Singapore since 2010 due to increased risk of heart attacks and strokes. The use of sibutramine has been associated with serious side effects, including high blood pressure, irregular heartbeats, hallucinations and mood swings. Desmethyl sibutramine is a substance similar to sibutramine which may have similar side effects.

Tretinoin

Tretinoin is a potent ingredient used in prescription medicines for the treatment of skin conditions and should be used under medical supervision. The ingredient is prohibited in skincare cosmetic products. Inappropriate use of tretinoin could lead to side effects such as redness and peeling of skin.