



HSA updates on products found overseas that contain potent ingredients (January 2022)

The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) would like to update the public on products that have been found and reported by overseas regulators in January 2022 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)
Artri Ajo King		Diclofenac (NSAIDs)	United States Food and Drug Administration
NP BEAUTY FM CREAM		Mercury	Malaysia National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency

Name of product	Picture of product	Potent ingredient(s)	Source (Regulatory Agency)
NP BEAUTY FB CREAM - 7g	 <p>The image shows the packaging for NP Beauty FB Cream. At the top, there are four boxes: one labeled 'NP FB Cream', one with 'Dedahkan Oleh NP Beauty Resources', one with 'Kandungan: Aloe Vera, Vitamin A, C & E', and one with 'Cara Guna: Sapu ke seluruh wajah & bilaslah dengan air'. Below the boxes are two glass jars and two white plastic tubs, all containing a white cream.</p>	Mercury	Malaysia National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency
AS'S BEAUTY NIGHT CREAM	 <p>The image shows the packaging for AS'S Beauty Night Cream. At the top, there is a box with a woman's face and the product name. To the right is a larger box with detailed text in Indonesian. Below the boxes are three containers: a round tin with a floral design, a small round jar, and a larger round jar, all containing a yellowish cream.</p>	Mercury	Malaysia National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency
Tawon Liar	 <p>The image shows the packaging for Tawon Liar. It is a box for 'JAMU KAPSUL' (Herbal Capsules) featuring a bee and a honeycomb pattern. The text on the box includes 'MENGATASI ASAM URAT - KOLESTROL STAMINA - PEGAL LINU' (Relieves Gout - Cholesterol - Stamina - Muscle Pain). It also states 'Diproduksi - PT. MAJU JAYA BERSAMA INDONESIA' and 'POM. TR 093513151'. The bottom of the box says 'Isi : 20 Sachet'.</p>	Meloxicam (NSAIDs)	United States Food and Drug Administration

Annex B

The possible side effects of the potent ingredients

Nonsteroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs)

Diclofenac and meloxicam are known as nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) used to relieve pain and reduce inflammation. Their prolonged use may potentially cause serious gastric bleeding, nausea, high blood pressure and cardiovascular events such as heart attacks and strokes. They should be used under close medical supervision, especially in patients with underlying heart conditions, stomach bleeding and ulceration.

Mercury

Mercury is a toxic substance 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. Chronic exposure to very high levels of mercury in cosmetic products may also cause toxic effects to the kidneys, digestive and nervous system, as it can be absorbed through the skin. This could lead to organ damage.