



HSA updates on products found overseas that contain potent ingredients (July 2023)

The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) would like to update the public on products that have been found and reported by overseas regulators in July 2023 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

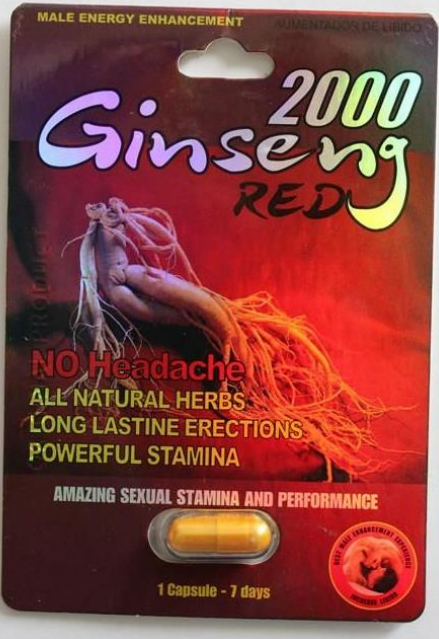
Note: There may be different versions or variants of the products listed below. You are advised to consult your doctor or pharmacist if you are unsure of any health product you intend to use, or if you need help for your acute and chronic medical symptoms and conditions

Name of product	Picture of product	Potent ingredient(s)	Source (Regulatory Agency)
<p>Airee Beautycare Nigh Cream</p>		<p>Mercury</p>	<p>Malaysia National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency</p>
<p>Armila Beauty Kak ELL Pigment Booster</p>		<p>Betamethasone</p>	<p>Malaysia National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency</p>

Name of product	Picture of product	Potent ingredient(s)	Source (Regulatory Agency)
BL Ledehh Day Cream 1		Hydroquinone and Tretinoin	Malaysia National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency
DYNAMITE Male Sexual Enhancement	No picture available	Sildenafil and Tadalafil (PDE-5 inhibitors)	United States Food & Drug Administration
Gen Bann Ultra, Testosterone Booster (red capsule)		Sildenafil (PDE-5 inhibitor)	Health Canada

Name of product	Picture of product	Potent ingredient(s)	Source (Regulatory Agency)
<p>Gen Bann Ultra, Testosterone Booster (black-red capsule)</p>		<p>Sildenafil (PDE-5 inhibitor)</p>	<p>Health Canada</p>

Name of product	Picture of product	Potent ingredient(s)	Source (Regulatory Agency)
<p>Gen Bann Ultra, Testosterone Booster (red tablet)</p>		<p>Sildenafil (PDE-5 inhibitor)</p>	<p>Health Canada</p>

Name of product	Picture of product	Potent ingredient(s)	Source (Regulatory Agency)
Ginseng Red 2000		Sildenafil (PDE-5 inhibitor)	Health Canada
Hard AF!	No picture available	Sildenafil and Tadalafil (PDE-5 inhibitors)	United States Food & Drug Administration
Hard AF Black 3500mg Male Sexual Dietary Supplement Pill	No picture available	Sildenafil and Tadalafil (PDE-5 inhibitors)	United States Food & Drug Administration
NUX Male Enhancement	No picture available	Sildenafil and Tadalafil (PDE-5 inhibitors)	United States Food & Drug Administration
ProPower Knight Plus 2550mg	No picture available	Sildenafil and Tadalafil (PDE-5 inhibitors)	United States Food & Drug Administration

Name of product	Picture of product	Potent ingredient(s)	Source (Regulatory Agency)
Revita Vita-X-2		Caffeine and Tadalafil (PDE-5 inhibitor)	Health Canada
Rhino products	No picture available	Sildenafil and Tadalafil (PDE-5 inhibitors)	United States Food & Drug Administration
Rhino 7 Platinum 5000		Sildenafil (PDE-5 inhibitor) and Yohimbe	Health Canada

Name of product	Picture of product	Potent ingredient(s)	Source (Regulatory Agency)
Rhino 69 Extreme 600k		Sildenafil (PDE-5 inhibitor)	Health Canada
Rhino 69 Extreme 35000		Tadalafil (PDE-5 inhibitor)	Health Canada
Titanium 18K Male Sexual Enhancement Black Silver	No picture available	Sildenafil and Tadalafil (PDE-5 inhibitors)	United States Food & Drug Administration

Annex B

The possible side effects of the potent ingredients

Betamethasone

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).

Caffeine

The inappropriate use of caffeine may lead to insomnia, agitation, restlessness, palpitations and increased heart rate.

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.

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.

Phosphodiesterase Type 5 (PDE-5) inhibitors

This class of medicine includes carbodenafil, sildenafil, tadalafil, vardenafil and their derivatives. 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.

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.

Yohimbe

Yohimbe is a bark extract from which a potent medicinal ingredient, Yohimbine, is derived. Side effects associated with yohimbe or yohimbine include insomnia, anxiety, palpitations (sensation of heart pounding, racing or skipped beats), sweating and blurred vision. Overdosage can cause low blood pressure, rapid heartbeats, seizures, paralysis and coma. Deaths from overdose have also been reported.