



**HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY  
PRESS RELEASE  
4 DECEMBER 2025**

## **HSA CHARGES 23-YEAR-OLD FOR ALLEGED TRAFFICKING OF ETOMIDATE E-VAPORISER PODS**

The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) has charged a 23-year-old man, Basil Wang Zhuang Zhen, in court on 4 December 2025 for the alleged trafficking of etomidate e-vaporiser pods.

2 On 2 December 2025 evening, a disposable e-vaporiser was found in the accused's rental vehicle at Woodlands Checkpoint upon arrival. HSA officers were activated onsite, which led to an enforcement operation at his residence in the early morning of 3 December 2025. During the operation, HSA officers found and seized 33 e-vaporisers and pods, 104 bottles of cough syrup, prescription medicines including over 3,500 tablets of diazepam and codeine phosphate. Of the items seized, 28 e-vaporiser pods, and the 104 bottles of cough syrup and all the tablets were meant for sale. Laboratory testing confirmed that the seized pods contained etomidate, and investigations are ongoing. Charges for the alleged supply of cough syrup and prescription medicines are also pending for further investigation.

3 The case has been adjourned to 14 January 2026.

4 HSA takes a serious view of e-vaporiser and etomidate trafficking offences and illegal activities involving health products. Importers, sellers and distributors of etomidate e-vaporisers now face stiffer penalties. These include 3 to 20 years' imprisonment and 5 to 15 strokes of the cane for importers, and 2 to 10 years' imprisonment and 2 to 5 strokes of the cane for sellers and distributors. Anyone caught importing, manufacturing and/or supplying of illegal health products is liable on conviction, to an imprisonment term for up to 2 years and/or fined up to \$50,000.

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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 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 social media: [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#) and [YouTube](#).

### **About HSA's Health Products Regulation Group**

The Health Products Regulation Group (HPRG) of HSA ensures that medicines, 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.

## ANNEX

### **HSA CHARGES 23-YEAR-OLD FOR ALLEGED TRAFFICKING OF ETOMIDATE E-VAPORISER PODS**



Photos' credits: the Health Sciences Authority