

17 July 2007

Dear Doctor,

Unregistered pharmaceutical product

Under the Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance (PPO), all pharmaceutical products must be registered before sale in Hong Kong to ensure that the registered products meet the required standard of safety, efficacy and quality. Registered products are required to be labeled with a registration number.

During a joint operation with the Police yesterday (16 July 2007), officers of the Department of Health seized 4000 units of human immunoglobulin and human albumin products bearing false registration numbers as follows:

- a) Human Immunoglobulin 50 ml (False registration number: HK 53419)
- b) Gamma Globulin Provie 320 mg (False registration number: HK 46898)
- c) Normal Serum Albumin (Human) 50 ml (False registration number: HK 41623)
- d) Human Albumin 25% Zinvie 50ml (False registration number: HK 41623)
- e) Gamma Globulin Zinvie 3ml (False registration number: HK 46887)
- f) Gamma Globulin Zinvie 320mg (False registration number: HK 46887)
- g) Gamma Globulin Poleas 320mg (False registration number: HK 46876)

Six brands of unregistered pharmaceutical products without any registration number were also seized during the operation. Details are as follows:

- a) 紅塔牌坐骨腰痛丸
- b) 白塔牌坐骨腰痛丸
- c) 風濕靈膠囊
- d) 強骨力膠囊
- e) 天津药業醋酸氟輕松軟膏 (Fluocinonide cream)
- f) Lover tablets – Emergency Contraceptive Tab

No report of adverse effects relating to the concerned products has been received

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by DH so far. Further investigations by the DH and Police are continuing.

I also wish to point out that under the possession and supply of unregistered pharmaceutical product is an offence under the PPO, with a maximum penalty on conviction of a fine of \$100,000 and two years' imprisonment.

Opportunity is taken to remind you to use only registered pharmaceutical products in your clinics. Pharmaceutical products which are registered in Hong Kong can be identified readily by examining their labels which are required by the PPO to display a registration number (in the form "HK-XXXXX", the latter being a five-digit number). If in doubt, you can check if a pharmaceutical product is registered or not by visiting the following website, which provides a list of all registered pharmaceutical products in Hong Kong:

http://www.psdh.gov.hk/eps/eng/html/compendium_main.jsp

<http://www.psdh.gov.hk/eps/productSearchSimpleAction.do>

Yours faithfully,

(H. C. SO)
Senior Pharmacist,
I/L Section, Pharmaceutical Service
Dept of Health
Tel: 2319 8469