## PRESS RELEASE

## REGISTRATION OF TRADITIONAL PRODUCT JIN FEI CAO SAN EXTRACT POWDER "SHENG CHANG" CANCELLED

- 1. The public is advised to avoid buying and using traditional product Jin Fei Cao San Extract Powder "Sheng Chang" with registration number MAL09111756T following cancellation of its registration by the Drug Control Authority (DCA) at its 236<sup>th</sup> meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2012 following the detection of scheduled poisons ephedrine and pseudoephedrine. This product was registered for traditional use to relief common cold, cough, phlegm and headache. The registration holder for this product is Lifecare Essential Sdn. Bhd., Kuala Lumpur and the manufacturer is Sheng Chang Pharm Co Ltd., Taipei Hsien, Taiwan.
- 2. Ephedrine and/or pseudoephedrine are controlled medicines often found as decongestants in cold medicines. Their usage at therapeutic doses prescribed by healthcare professionals provide benefit to patients, but if used indiscriminately without proper diagnosis and supervision, it can cause serious adverse events such as hypertension, psychiatric-related symptoms such as hallucination, schizophrenia, delusion and even risk of getting stroke if taken on prolonged use. Ephedrine and/or pseudoephedrine are not allowed in traditional products and if taken, can be harmful to consumers who are at high risk of getting these adverse events as well as patients with underlying heart disease, hypertension and hyperthyroidism.
- 3. Consumers are advised to stop using Jin Fei Cao San Extract Powder "Sheng Chang" and they can seek further advice from healthcare professionals, if experiencing any unpleasant effects or adverse events. Consumers can contact National Pharmaceutical Control Bureau at 03-78835546/5539 or email bpfk@bpfk.gov.my for further enquiry or information.

4. Anyone who is in possession of this product is advised to immediately cease selling, distributing or using it. Sellers are reminded that possession for sale of these products is an offence under the Control of Drugs and Cosmetics Regulations 1984. Any individual who commits an offence under these regulations can be fined up to a maximum of RM25,000 or a jail sentence not exceeding 3 years or both for the first offence, and for a subsequent offence, a fine up to a maximum of RM50,000 or a jail sentence not exceeding 5 years or both. A company found guilty can be fined up to RM50, 000 for the first offence and fined up to a maximum of RM100,000 for a subsequent offence.

## DATO' SRI DR. HASAN BIN ABDUL RAHMAN

Director General of Health Malaysia
DCA Chairman
Ministry of Health Malaysia

