

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **PRODUCT RECALL OF "PO CHAI PILLS" BY HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY (HSA), SINGAPORE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, HONG KONG.**

The Drug Control Authority (DCA) has received an alert from Health Sciences Authority (HSA), Singapore regarding product recall of "Po Chai Pills Capsule Form" batch number 21217, manufactured by Li Chung Shing Tong (Holdings) Ltd, Hong Kong, following the detection of Phenolphthalein and Sibutramine in that particular batch.

Following that, the Department of Health, Hong Kong has directed the manufacturer, Li Chung Shing Tong (Holdings) Ltd, Hong Kong to recall 2 products by the name of "Po Chai Pills Capsule Form" and "Po Chai Pills Bottle Form".

Phenolphthalein is a chemical once used for treating constipation but it has since been banned for its cancer causing effect. On the other hand, Sibutramine, a scheduled poison, is used for body slimming effect and its use without doctor's supervision can cause serious adverse events such as high blood pressure and other cardiovascular effects.

"Po Chai Pills Capsule Form" recalled by HSA Singapore is not registered in Malaysia. The Drug Control Agency has only registered a single product with the name of "Poh Chai Pill" (registration number MAL 19988034T) which is used traditionally for symptomatic relief of fever, cold, minor diarrhoea, vomiting and stomach-ache.

The National Pharmaceutical Control Bureau (NPCB) is currently running laboratory tests on "Poh Chai Pill" samples and the public is advised to practise caution in using the product until further safety notice from the DCA. They should stop using the product immediately and consult their healthcare providers if they experience any adverse effects.

Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr Hj Mohd Ismail Merican  
Director General of Health Malaysia  
As DCA Chairman  
Ministry of Health Malaysia

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