

香港特別行政區政府
衛生署
中醫藥事務部
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THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG
SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CHINESE MEDICINE DIVISION
WU CHUNG HOUSE, 32nd FLOOR,
213 QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, WAN CHAI,
HONG KONG.

本署檔號 OUR REF: (29/07) in DH/TCMD/1-60/23

來函檔號 YOUR REF:

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5th February 2008

Dear Retailers of Chinese Herbal Medicines,

**Reports of Adverse Events after Taking
a Health Product for Improvement of Sexual Function**

The Department of Health (DH) followed up into Hospital Authority's reports concerning cases of adverse event after taking a health product to improve sexual function. DH officers visited a retail shop in Sheung Shui for investigation last Friday and seized samples of red/yellow capsules resemble those consumed by a patient for analysis. Laboratory tests revealed the presence of sildenafil and a high quantity of glibenclamide.

Sildenafil is a western drug used for treating sexual dysfunction, while glibenclamide is for treatment of diabetes. They may cause serious adverse health consequences and even death if taken without medical supervision. Under the Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance (Chapter 138, Laws of Hong Kong), products containing sildenafil or glibenclamide must be registered before sale and can only be sold on a doctor's prescription and under supervision of a pharmacist. Sale of any unregistered pharmaceutical product or medicine is an offence under the law.

DH urges all retailers refrain from purchasing health products or medicines from unknown sources, as the quality of the products cannot be assured. Those products should be disposed of immediately.

For enquiries, please contact DH's Pharmaceutical Service at 2572 2068.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Chiu', written in a cursive style.

(Dr. Amy PY Chiu)
for Director of Health