

## **Safe use of proprietary Chinese medicines**

The Health Bureau of Macao SAR has announced on 4 May on a recall of a proprietary Chinese medicine (pCm) named Saimeian Jiaonang (batch number 080813), manufactured by Fujian Quanzhou Yatai Pharmaceutical Co. Limited, as its capsules were found to have chromium level exceeded the reference standard. Please visit the website for details: [http://www.ssm.gov.mo/docs/4289/4289\\_94ca47efc8874bdb90a401a9fdb3d37f\\_000.pdf](http://www.ssm.gov.mo/docs/4289/4289_94ca47efc8874bdb90a401a9fdb3d37f_000.pdf)

The Department of Health (DH) immediately started investigation. Preliminary information showed that, in Hong Kong, there are two pCms (HKP-08407 and HKP-00410) match the descriptions with same product name, formulation, dosage and manufacturer, although there is no indication that the batch 080813 has entered this locality. DH also took the pCms samples from the two wholesalers and a retailer for laboratory analysis. The Government Laboratory test results showed that all samples contained chromium level below the recommended limit of 2 ppm, as stated in the Pharmacopoeia of the People's Republic of China. DH has alerted the pCm traders to remain vigilant to the sources of their capsule products and take laboratory analysis on their products if necessary.

Over the years, DH has received many reports of adverse drug reactions following consumption of drugs or health products purchased outside Hong Kong. Members of the public who have used this product and are either unsure or feeling unwell should seek advice from health-care professionals.

While no adverse report has been received so far, DH will remain vigilant and monitor the development.

Chinese Medicine Division

Department of Health

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