

SINGAPORE

HSA Seizes More Than 11,000 Units of Illegal Health Products During Week of International Enforcement Operation

The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) seized more than 11,000 units of illegal health products in a week-long enforcement action code named Operation Pangea. This is the 8th year that HSA is taking part in this operation, which is coordinated by INTERPOL. From 9 to 16 June 2015, HSA intensified its surveillance of local Internet platforms to detect illegal health products that were being sold online in Singapore. HSA seized illegal health products with a total street value of more than S\$20,000. A total of 12 persons are currently assisting HSA in the investigations.

2 The illegal health products seized by HSA comprised western medicines, slimming products and contact lens. One of the seizures consisted of 400 capsules of an unlicensed medicine labelled as Viagra, which was promoted as a sexual enhancement drug. This was tested by HSA to contain the medicinal ingredient sildenafil, which can cause serious adverse effects when used without medical supervision. The seller had ordered this product online from an overseas website and intended to sell it for a value of 10 times the original cost. Another seizure comprised an unlicensed medicine labelled as Duromine, a weight loss medicine.

Please refer to **Annex A** in the pdf version for photographs of the products seized.

3 Aside from the period of intensified surveillance during Operation Pangea, HSA works closely with major local e-commerce websites like Carousell and Qoo10 to take down posts selling illegal health products. These websites have also provided guidelines to advise sellers on what health products cannot be sold online.

Advisory

4 Drugs used for sexual enhancement purposes may contain western medicinal ingredients which should only be taken under medical supervision. Taking these drugs unsupervised may be dangerous for patients with medical conditions such as heart problems, and may be fatal for those who are taking certain medicines for their heart condition.

5 Similarly, many slimming drugs are prescription medicines which should only be taken under medical supervision. Such products may contain undeclared potent ingredients that may seriously harm your health. Do not gamble with your health.

6 HSA would like to remind consumers of the dangers of purchasing health products from dubious sources, including the Internet. Consumers should be wary when buying health products online as they may be illegal, counterfeit or substandard, and may contain undeclared ingredients which can harm your health. Consumers should also seek early and proper medical attention for management of their medical conditions, instead of self-medicating.

7 Sellers should be cautious when sourcing for health products to sell and are reminded of their responsibility in ensuring the safety of the products and adherence to local legislations prior to introducing them to the market, including selling them online.

8 Anyone convicted of selling illegal health products may be liable for prosecution under the Health Products Act, Poisons Act and/or Medicines Act. Offenders will face a penalty fine of up to \$100,000 and/or imprisonment for a period of up to three years under the Health Products Act; a penalty fine of up to \$10,000 and/or imprisonment for a period of up to two years under the Poisons Act and a penalty fine of up to \$5,000 and/or imprisonment for a period of up to two years under the Medicines Act.

9 Members of the public who encounter illegal, counterfeit or other suspicious health products are encouraged to contact the Enforcement Branch of HSA at Tel: 68663485 or email: hsa_is@hsa.gov.sg. Additionally, members of the public are encouraged to visit www.healthdangers.sg to learn more about the dangers of buying illegal health products from dubious sources.

Operation Pangea

10 Operation Pangea is an international Internet week of action targeting the illegal online sale of counterfeit and unlicensed medicines. HSA was among 236 participating agencies and 115 countries in this global Internet-based action coordinated by INTERPOL, the World Customs Organization (WCO), the Permanent Forum of International Pharmaceutical crime (PFIPC), the Heads of Medicines Agencies Working Group of Enforcement Officers (HMA WGEO), the pharmaceutical industry and the electronic payments industry. The global operation targets the three main components abused in the illegal website trade and the people behind the illegal activity: the Internet infrastructure, the electronic payment system and the delivery service.

**HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY
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SOURCE: http://www.hsa.gov.sg/content/hsa/en/News_Events/Press_Releases/2015/hsa-seizes-more-than11000unitsofillegalhealthproductsduringweeko.html

USA

FDA takes action to protect consumers from potentially dangerous counterfeit medicines and devices sold online

International Operation Pangea VIII combats the unlawful sale and distribution of illegal prescription medicines and medical devices on the Internet

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration, in partnership with international regulatory and law enforcement agencies, took action this week against more than 1,050 websites that illegally sell potentially dangerous, unapproved prescription medicines and medical devices to consumers. These actions include the issuance of regulatory warnings to the operators of offending websites and seizure of illegal medicines and medical devices worldwide.

The action occurred as part of the Eighth Annual International Internet Week of Action (IIWA), a global cooperative effort, led by INTERPOL, to combat the unlawful sale and distribution of illegal and potentially counterfeit medical products on the Internet.

As part of this year's international effort – Operation Pangea VIII – the FDA sent Warning Letters to the operators of nearly 400 websites offering unapproved or misbranded prescription medicines to U.S. patients and to nine firms distributing unapproved or uncleared medical devices online. FDA inspectors, in collaboration with other federal agencies, screened and seized illegal drug products and medical devices received through International Mail Facilities (IMFs) in Chicago, Miami and New York during the IIWA. These screenings resulted in 814 parcels being detained and referred to appropriate FDA offices for follow up. Parcels found in violation of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act will be refused entry into the country.

Multiple centers and offices within the FDA participated in the enforcement action, which ran from June 9 to June 16, 2015.

The goal of Pangea VIII – which involves law enforcement, customs and regulatory authorities from 115 countries – was to identify the makers and distributors of illegal prescription drug products and medical devices and to remove these products from the supply chain.

“Our efforts to protect the health of American patients by preventing the online sale of potentially dangerous illegal medical products will not cease,” said George Karavetsos, director of the FDA’s Office of Criminal Investigations. “Operation Pangea VIII provides yet another avenue for the FDA to engage with our international law enforcement partners on these critical issues. We are not only pleased to be a part of this strong international enforcement effort, but resolved to do everything we can to ensure that the global problem of illegal Internet drug and device sales is deterred as a result.”

Some of the unapproved prescription drugs targeted during Operation Pangea VIII that purport to be FDA-approved generic versions of brand name drugs and are sold illegally by the websites included: “Generic Nolvadex,” “Generic Meridia,” “Generic Valium,” “Generic Truvada” and “Generic Advair Diskus.”

Some of the devices sold illegally online and targeted during Operation Pangea VIII included “The Ondamed System” and “Colon Care Products of PA Open System Colon Hydrotherapy Device (Grace)” as well as illegal dermal fillers such as “Interfall Hydrogel polyacrylamide dermal filler,” “Dermafil hyaluronic acid dermal filler” and “Teosyal hyaluronic acid dermal filler.”

Preliminary findings from drug products screened at IMFs show that certain drug products from abroad, such as antidepressants, hormone replacement therapies, sleep aids and other drugs to treat erectile dysfunction, high cholesterol and seizures were en route to U.S. consumers.

In addition to health risks, illegal online pharmacies and illegal online medical device retailers pose other risks to consumers, including credit card fraud, identity theft and computer viruses. The FDA encourages consumers to report suspected criminal activity at www.fda.gov/oci.

The FDA also provides consumers with information to identify an illegal pharmacy website and advice on how to find a safe online pharmacy through [BeSafeRx: Know Your Online Pharmacy](#).

The IIWA is a collaborative effort between the FDA, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center, INTERPOL, the World Customs Organization, the Permanent Forum of International Pharmaceutical Crime, Heads of Medicines Agencies Working Group of Enforcement Officers, the pharmaceutical industry and national health and law enforcement agencies from 111 participating countries.

The FDA, an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, protects the public health by assuring the safety, effectiveness and security of human and veterinary drugs, vaccines and other biological products for human use, and medical devices. The agency also is responsible for the safety and security of our nation’s food supply, cosmetics, dietary supplements, products that give off electronic radiation and for regulating tobacco products.

SOURCE: <http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm451755.htm>

UNITED KINGDOM

UK leads the way with £15.8 million seizure in global operation targeting counterfeit and unlicensed medicines and devices

MHRA announced £15.8 million worth of counterfeit and unlicensed medicines and devices have been seized in the UK.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) today (18 June) announced £15.8 million worth of counterfeit and unlicensed medicines and devices have been seized in the UK as part of a global operation.

The seizures – the biggest recorded to date in the UK - include huge quantities of illegally supplied and potentially harmful slimming pills, erectile dysfunction tablets, anaemia tablets and narcolepsy tablets. Unlicensed foreign medicines and fake condoms were also found and removed.

The seizures are a result of a month-long international crackdown on the illegal internet trade of medical products that yielded £51.6 million worth of items from 115 different countries globally.

The ‘Operation Pangea VIII’ initiative, coordinated through INTERPOL, concluded with a week of international raids between 9 and 16 June that resulted in 156 arrests worldwide.

The operation also targeted websites that were offering falsified, counterfeit and unlicensed medicines and led to their closure or suspension by removal of their domain name or payment facility.

In the UK, MHRA enforcement officers, with assistance from local police, raided known addresses in connection with the illegal internet supply of potentially harmful medicines.

It resulted in the domestic seizure of almost 6.2 million doses of falsified, counterfeit and unlicensed medicines, 15,000 of which were medical devices with a total value of £15.8 million. The UK operation also resulted in 1,380 websites being closed down, 339 of which were domestic sites.

MHRA Head of Enforcement, Alastair Jeffrey, said:

Operation Pangea is the global response to internet-facilitated medicines and devices crime. As a result of our intelligence-led enforcement operations we have seized £15.8 million worth of counterfeit and unlicensed medicines and 15,000 devices in the UK alone – which is almost twice as much as we recorded last year, and clear evidence that this is a growing concern that has to be taken seriously.

Criminals involved in the illegal supply of medical products through the internet aren’t interested in your health - they are interested in your money and are able to get this by selling you a potentially dangerous product, or by stealing your bank details. To protect

your health, visit your GP, get a correct diagnosis and buy medicines from a legitimate high street or registered pharmacy which can trade online.

A breakdown of the UK seizures highlights the growing trend towards lifestyle medications and products that are unlicensed, falsified or controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

The majority of the products seized in UK originated from India, China, Hong Kong and Singapore.

MHRA has continued to target YouTube accounts and videos as criminals seek to exploit new channels to profit from the illegal sale of medicines - resulting in the removal of more than 320 videos.

Internationally, results show that almost 150,000 packages were inspected by regulators and customs officials, resulting in the seizure of over 20.7 million doses of unlicensed and counterfeit medicines worth approximately £51.6 million.

Alex Lawther, from Border Force's postal command, added:

Border Force regularly detects and seizes illegal and restricted products imported through the postal system including fake and unlicensed medicines. Our involvement in this operation with the MHRA demonstrates our commitment to combat this form of smuggling.

Our message to the public is simple – don't buy anything online unless you are certain it comes from a legitimate source.

If someone suspects their medicine may be counterfeit, contact the MHRA's designated 24-hour anti-counterfeiting hotline on 020 3080 6701 or counterfeit@mhra.gsi.gov.uk.

Background

1. Types of medicines seized include: epilepsy, asthma, acne, narcolepsy, breast cancer, cholesterol reduction, erectile dysfunction, analgesics, hair loss, weight loss, painkillers, fertility, breast/prostate cancer, anxiety/insomnia, skin lightening, anti-depressants, diabetes, premature ejaculation, tanning, pain management, anti-inflammatory, steroids, anti-viral, eye drops, bacterial infection, eczema, eyelash hair growth, depression, hormones, dental equipment, and fake condoms.
2. Operation Pangea is an international initiative to target the illegal internet trade in medicines. It was instigated by MHRA in April 2006 and started as the UK Internet Day of Action (IDA). There were 115 countries participating in Op Pangea VIII. See [Interpol's website for more information the global operation](#).
3. The annual operation is the largest internet-based enforcement action of its kind to date and was coordinated by INTERPOL, together with the World Customs Organization (WCO), the Permanent Forum of International Pharmaceutical Crime (PFIPC), the Heads of Medicines Agencies Working Group of Enforcement Officers (WGEO), Europol and the Pharmaceutical Security Institute (PSI), and supported by the Center for Safe Internet Pharmacies (CSIP) and private sector companies including LegitScript, Google, Mastercard, Visa, American Express and PayPal.
4. Prescription-only medicine should only be taken in consultation with a GP or other healthcare professional. These people have access to patient health records and can take

into account the risks and benefits associated with every medicine as well as providing on-going monitoring of the treatment.

5. [Further information about purchasing medicines safely online](#) can be found on MHRA's website
6. The General Pharmaceutical Council operates an internet pharmacy logo to help the public identify if a website is being operated by a bona fide pharmacy in Great Britain.
7. Photography is available on request courtesy of Sky News, working exclusively with MHRA.
8. MHRA is the government agency responsible for ensuring that medicines and medical devices work, and are acceptably safe. No product is risk-free. Our work is underpinned by robust and fact-based judgements to ensure that the benefits to patients and the public justify the risks. We keep watch over medicines and devices, and take any necessary action to protect the public promptly if there is a problem. We encourage everyone – the public and healthcare professionals as well as the industry – to tell us about any problems with a medicine or medical device, to enable us to investigate and take any necessary action.

SOURCE: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-leads-the-way-with-158-million-seizure-in-global-operation-targeting-counterfeit-and-unlicensed-medicines-and-devices>

EUROPOL

EUROPOL SUPPORTS INTERPOL-COORDINATED OPERATION TARGETING ORGANISED CRIME WITH SEIZURE OF 20 MILLION ILLICIT MEDICINES

The Hague, the Netherlands

18 June 2015

Europol has supported a global Interpol-coordinated operation targeting the criminal networks behind the sale of fake medicines via illicit online pharmacies. The operation has led to the arrest of 156 individuals worldwide and the seizure of potentially dangerous medicines worth USD 81 million.

This huge action involved 115 countries and resulted in the launch of 429 investigations, the suspension of more than 550 adverts for illicit pharmaceuticals via social media platforms and 2414 websites being taken offline.

Europol deployed a specialist in the operations centre based at Interpol's General Secretariat in Lyon. Together with Europol's Liaison Officer, the specialist crosschecked all incoming data with Europol databases and provided the concerned agencies with analysis reports when hits were found.

Europol also provided forensic support in Vienna to colleagues from Austria's BKA, customs and the pharmaceutical agency AGES.

In addition to interventions on the ground, which included the discovery of an illicit warehouse full of counterfeit and expired medicines in Indonesia, the operation also targeted the main areas exploited by organised crime in the illegal online medicine trade: rogue domain name registrars, electronic payment systems and delivery services.

As well as raids at addresses linked to the illicit pharmaceutical websites, some 150 000 packages were inspected by customs and regulatory authorities, of which 50 000 were seized during the international week of action (9–16 June).

Among the fake and illicit medicines seized during the operation were blood pressure medication, erectile dysfunction pills, cancer medication and nutritional supplements. In the case from Indonesia, authorities uncovered an operation where criminals were altering the expiry date or the amount of the active ingredient on packages of counterfeit, expired and unregistered medicines at the warehouse and returning them to a pharmacy for sale.

Operation Pangea VIII was the largest ever Internet-based operation focusing on the illicit sale of medicines and medical devices, with the participation of 236 agencies from police, customs and

health regulatory authorities. Private partners from the Internet and payment industries also supported the operation, which saw a record number of 20.7 million illicit and counterfeit medicines seized.

Operation Pangea VIII was coordinated by Interpol, together with the World Customs Organization (WCO), the Permanent Forum of International Pharmaceutical Crime (PFIPC), the Heads of Medicines Agencies Working Group of Enforcement Officers (WGEO), the Pharmaceutical Security Institute (PSI), Europol, and supported by the Center for Safe Internet Pharmacies (CSIP) and private sector companies including LegitScript, Google, Mastercard, Visa, American Express and PayPal.

SOURCE: <https://www.europol.europa.eu/content/europol-supports-interpol-coordinated-operation-targeting-organised-crime-seizure-20-million>

WCO

Millions USD worth illicit medicines seized in global operation

Press release

236 enforcement agencies across 115 countries have taken part in Operation Pangea VIII targeting criminal networks behind the sale of fake medicines, resulting in 156 arrests worldwide and the seizure of more than USD 81 million worth of potentially dangerous medicines.

The Operation led to the launch of 429 investigations, the removal of more than 365 adverts for illicit pharmaceuticals via social media platforms and more than 2,414 websites shut down.

Operation Pangea VIII was coordinated by INTERPOL, the World Customs Organization (WCO), the Permanent Forum of International Pharmaceutical crime (PFIPC), the Heads of Medicines Agencies Working Group of Enforcement Officers (HMA WGEO), the pharmaceutical industry and the electronic payments industry.

As well as raids at addresses linked to the illicit pharmaceutical websites, some 149,623 packages were inspected by Customs and regulatory authorities, of which nearly 50,068 were seized during the international week of action (9 – 16 June).

Among the 81 million fake and illicit medicines seized during the operation were cancer medication, infective medication, blood medication, cardiovascular medication, demagogical medication and nutritional products.

Throughout Operation Pangea VIII, INTERPOL's General Secretariat headquarters in Lyon served as the central hub for information exchange among the participating countries and agencies. From this base, the WCO coordinated activities between the 80 participating Customs administrations, via the WCO's secure communication tool CENcomm, and the Pangea team.

SOURCE: <http://www.wcoomd.org/en/media/newsroom/2015/june/millions-usd-worth-illicit-medicines-seized-in-global-operation.aspx>

Keeping Canadians Safe: Fighting Counterfeit and Unlicensed Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices

For the eighth consecutive year, Canada participated in [Operation Pangea](#), an INTERPOL-lead global endeavour which targets the sale of counterfeit and unlicensed pharmaceutical products and medical devices. This week of action took place from June 9 to 16 and resulted in a record seizure of 20.7 million potentially life-threatening pharmaceuticals and medical devices worldwide, with a value of US\$81 million.

This year's operation was the largest to date, with 115 countries and 236 police, customs, and health regulatory agencies participating worldwide. Private partners from the Internet and payment industries also supported the operation.

In Canada, the effort was a joint collaboration with INTERPOL-Ottawa, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), Health Canada and Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA). Results were unveiled on June 18, sending a strong message to the public that counterfeit and unlicensed pharmaceutical products are not safe and can have fatal consequences.

Here in Canada, approximately 3700 packages originating from 21 countries were inspected. Of these, almost 90% were either refused or seized as they contained counterfeit and/or unlicensed health products, such as prescription drugs. The total street value of these products is approximately \$850,000 CAD. The products confiscated this year include counterfeit prescriptions drugs such as erectile dysfunction medications, and unlicensed natural health products and weight loss medications.

“Crime has no borders. International collaboration with our partners through operations like Pangea are vital when tackling criminal threats to Canada, to law enforcement partners, and to the safety, security, and economic well-being of citizens around the world,” says RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson.

In particular, international collaboration between Canada, France, the UK, the US, INTERPOL and the private sector resulted in the suspension of two Internet domain names, selling the potentially lethal and illicit diet and body building drug 2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP) after one woman died in the UK and a man in France was left seriously ill after taking the substance.

“The CBSA is proud to play an integral part in Operation Pangea alongside the RCMP, INTERPOL, and Health Canada”, said Martin Bolduc, Vice-President of Operations at the CBSA. “Our officers posted in Canada's international mail centres work diligently to protect the health and safety of Canadians from those who would seek to take advantage of us.”

“We work hand in hand with our global partners, to combat counterfeit and illicit pharmaceuticals sold online. This integrated approach allows us to detect and disrupt criminal

activity, making it difficult for criminals to execute their plans,” says INTERPOL-Ottawa Director, Inspector Rob Gilchrist.

The RCMP and its partners wish to remind the public that there is no guarantee that medications or medical devices purchased via the Internet are genuine or safe.

Canadians are strongly encouraged to be vigilant, choose legitimate pharmacies when purchasing medicines and medical devices and to share any information on suspected illicit activity with their local police.

To learn more about counterfeit pharmaceuticals and this year’s Operation Pangea in Canada, join the RCMP, Health Canada and Canada Border Services Agency for a Twitter Chat today at 1 p.m. (EDT) on the RCMP’s Twitter account @rcmpgrcpolice or by using the hashtag #fakemedschat.

SOURCE: <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/news/2015/19/keeping-canadians-safe-fighting-counterfeit-and-unlicensed-pharmaceuticals-and-medical>

Successful operation against illegal drug imports

18.06.2015

Amphetamines, anabolic steroids, banned slimming preparations and illegal erectile stimulants of all shapes and sizes: dozens of illegal shipments of medicines and doping agents sent through the post have been confiscated by customs officers and by Swissmedic and Antidoping Switzerland personnel.

A total of 115 countries participated in this year's "PANGEA VIII" week of action to combat illegal trading in medicines online. Every year drug shipments are systematically checked over a period of one week in connection with Operation PANGEA. At airports and mail distribution centres, the authorities worldwide checked 149'623 suspicious packages between 9 and 16 June. They confiscated 50'068 packages and ordered the closure of 2414 illegal websites. House searches were also conducted and arrests made.

In Switzerland the authorities checked almost 600 packages containing medicines. Swiss customs officers and employees of Swissmedic and Antidoping Switzerland confiscated 56 packages containing especially harmful medicines and 10 packages with banned doping agents. The recipients of the released shipments received an information letter with the following warnings: Tablets and capsules of unknown origin may contain too many or too few active ingredients, or no active ingredients at all. In the worst-case scenario, counterfeit medicines can contain toxic constituents that pose major risks to health.

On the whole, the authorities recorded fewer imports of illegal preparations into Switzerland this year. Those responsible attribute this to the success of the awareness-raising campaigns. However, the procedural costs of at least 300 Swiss francs also appear to have had a deterrent effect on buyers.

But the operation does not just involve the interception of packages. Swissmedic is also active in combating website offerings. Illegal mail-order dealers abroad are reported to the authorities in the respective countries, which then challenge the offenders locally. Swissmedic also takes action against Swiss companies that host the websites of illegal dealers. Thus, for example, the domain names for several hundred websites were withdrawn from a registration company based in Switzerland, thereby halting its operations. However, some suppliers are now switching to social media channels. In connection with PANGEA VIII, Swissmedic managed to arrange the closure of a Facebook account that was offering illegal slimming preparations.

Operation PANGEA

Operation PANGEA is the leading international campaign for combating the illicit trade in medicines. Its aim is to halt shipments of this kind and to close down websites associated with the distribution of illegal and unsafe medicines. The focus is on the three main components of illegal online trading: internet service providers, payment systems and delivery services.

Operation PANGEA VIII took place from 9 to 16 June 2015 in collaboration with Interpol, the World Customs Organization (WCO), national drug monitoring authorities, the Permanent Forum of International Pharmaceutical Crime (PFIPC) and the Pharmaceutical Security Institute (PSI), with additional input from various online payment processors, LegitScript and Google.

SOURCE: <https://www.swissmedic.ch/aktuell/00673/02836/index.html?lang=en>

DENMARK

During operation PANGAEA VIII, The Danish Health and Medicines Authority and Lægemedelindustriforeningen (LIF - The Danish Pharmaceutical Industry) published a series of cartoons from renowned Danish cartoonists Wulffmorgenthaler. The cartoons focus on purchasing potency enhancing pills online and are part of an awareness raising campaign which were released following the Pangea press release.

As part of this awareness raising campaign we have also launched a new Facebook site under the name "Sikker Potens" (Safe Potency) <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Sikker-potens/1618001498481948?fref=ts>

For your orientation, you will find the three cartoons by Wulffmorgenthaler below (with translations).



Translation:

There you go boys! We are going to destroy the reproductive system of humankind! In 10 years they will be gone, and we can rule forever!

Under all three cartoons, is the same text.

Translation:

“Take care of yourself, when buying ED medicine online – talk to your doctor first and only buy medicine on authorized websites”



Sundhedsstyrelsen

Pas på dig selv, når du køber potensmidler på nettet - tal med din læge først og køb kun medicin på godkendte hjemmesider.

Translation:

Top text: "Michael had something quite different in mind, when he read that the ED medicine would give him a more experimental sex life"

Middle text: "See ya, Michael! Daddy here is going out for a night on the town. Don't wait up. Great buy with that illegal potency-dynamite!"

Du er hermed anholdt for at have brugt et usandsynligt stort beløb på ulovlige potensmidler.

Hvem mig? Det må være Hansen inde i nr. 16, du skal have fat i. Jeg har kun købt vitaminpiller og hostesaft.



Sundhedsstyrelsen

Pas på dig selv, når du køber potensmidler på nettet - tal med din læge først og køb kun medicin på godkendte hjemmesider.

Translation:

Policeman: "You are hereby under arrest, for using an improbable amount of money on illegal ED medicine."

Man: "Who me? You need to talk to Hansen in no. 16. I have only bought vitamins and coughing syrup."

IRELAND

Man in mid-20s dies after taking banned slimming pills

25 June 2015

Garda and health products authority investigating 'fat burning' drug containing DNP

Two separate investigations are under way into the death of a young man after the suspected consumption of an illegal slimming product purchased online.

The man, in his mid-20s, died in May after taking a "fat burning" product that contained Dinitrophenol (DNP), a highly toxic substance marketed on the internet as a "wonder slimming aid".

The [Garda Síochána](#) and the [Health Products Regulatory Authority](#) (HPRA) have both begun investigations and the matter has been referred to the local coroner.

DNP, an industrial chemical popular with some bodybuilders and people with eating disorders to lose weight, has been linked to over 60 deaths worldwide, but this is the first reported case in Ireland.

The HPRA said it had only recently become aware of the man's death following the suspected consumption of the chemical. It repeated earlier warnings of the potential serious health dangers of taking slimming products purchased online, which were issued after a DNP-linked death in the UK in April.

It says products containing DNP are not fit for human consumption and have the potential to cause serious harm. Consumers should not buy slimming products illegally available online, which may contain "unauthorised substances which are often undeclared on the pack".

A small number of tablets containing DNP have been seized by the HPRA, formerly the [Irish Medicines Board](#), it says.

In 1933, US scientists discovered that DNP dramatically speeds up metabolism, leading to rapid weight loss. It was subsequently marketed as a weight loss drug, but was quickly withdrawn from the market after it was found to be highly toxic, with significant side effects and, in some cases, deaths.

These side effects include fever, dehydration, vomiting, headaches and rapid or irregular heartbeat. The combination of these effects can result in coma and death. Long-term use can lead to the development of cataracts and skin lesions and may cause damage to the heart and nervous system.

Despite this, DNP has become increasingly popular in the last decade among bodybuilders seeking a "quick-fix" leading to rapid weight loss, and the internet has ensured its easy availability despite the dangers and official bans on its sale.

"The information we have at this time indicates that this young man consumed DNP and our thoughts are with his family," said Pat O'Mahony, chief executive of the HPRA. "These investigations are on-going, and we strongly urge members of the public to never use the internet

to source slimming products or any prescription medicines at any time – no amount of these products is safe to take.”

Bogus websites can be very sophisticated and can appear legitimate, he said. “However, in reality they can be supplying unsafe and harmful products. Laboratory analysis of products detained in the past has shown that medicines being sold through illicit websites will often contain too little or too much of the active ingredient or may contain undeclared and harmful substances.”

SOURCE: <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/health/man-in-mid-20s-dies-after-taking-banned-slimming-pills-1.2262841>