

本署檔號 Our Ref.: () in DH SEB NCD/15/15/1

2 September, 2015.

Dear Doctor,

**Update on Cases of Heavy Metal Poisoning after Consumption of
Medications Prescribed Outside Hong Kong**

I would like to update you on cases of heavy metal poisoning after consumption of medications prescribed outside Hong Kong.

Subsequent to the three cases announced on 26 August, the Department of Health (DH) identified 36 additional cases so far. All of them had consulted a man who claimed to be a Chinese medicine practitioner in Changping, Dongguan, Guangdong, for treatment of chronic skin conditions and have taken pills prescribed by the aforesaid man. Subject to patient's consent, these cases will be referred to the Hong Kong Poison Information Centre or Prince of Wales Poison Treatment Centre for clinical assessment and follow-up where appropriate.

The DH has set up a hotline (2125 1133) to answer related enquiries from the public since last Saturday. The hotline will operate from 9 am to 6 pm from Monday to Friday this week.

As we anticipate more patients with skin problems such as psoriasis could have patronized healthcare professionals outside Hong Kong and given medications that may cause arsenic poisoning, I once again appeal to your vigilance when encountering patients with signs and symptoms of peripheral neuropathy and skin problem, to look out for similar travel and medication histories.

Should you encounter suspected cases, please consider to consult the Hong Kong Poison Information Centre (Telephone: 2772 2211) for advice on clinical management. Patients who are in doubt may also call the hotline for enquiries.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Ching'.

(Dr. Regina Ching)
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