

Batch recall of Irbesartan HCT Actavis Tablets 150/12.5mg (with photo)

The Department of Health (DH) today (December 20) endorsed a product registration certificate holder, Actavis Hong Kong Limited (Actavis), to recall one batch (batch number: 058818) of Irbesartan HCT Actavis Tablets 150/12.5mg (Hong Kong Registration number: HK-63378) from the market as a precautionary measure because an impurity was detected in one of the raw materials of this batch of product.

The DH received notification from Actavis today that, through its analytical testing, certain batches of the irbesartan raw materials were found to contain an impurity, N-nitrosodiethylamine (NDEA). NDEA is classified as a probable human carcinogen (a substance that could cause cancer). A number of irbesartan-containing products using these raw materials were thus affected. Among the affected products, the above batch of tablets has been imported into and supplied in Hong Kong. As a precautionary measure, Actavis has voluntarily recalled the affected batch from the market.

The above product, containing irbesartan and hydrochlorothiazide, is a prescription medicine used to lower blood pressure. According to Actavis, the affected batch has been supplied to local private doctors, pharmacies and one private hospital.

Actavis has set up a hotline (3188 4288) to answer related enquiries.

"So far, the DH has not received any adverse drug reaction report related to the affected product. The DH will continue its investigation and will closely monitor the recall," a spokesman for the DH said.

Patients who are taking the above product should not stop taking the medicine/s, but should seek advice from their healthcare professionals for appropriate management.



[Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected counterfeit goods \(with photo\)](#)

Hong Kong Customs yesterday (December 19) seized a total of about 400 cartons of suspected counterfeit goods, including mobile phones and accessories, watches, clothing and handbags with an estimated market value of about \$4 million from a container at the Customs Cargo Examination Compound, River Trade Terminal, Tuen Mun.

Through risk assessment, Customs officers inspected a 40-foot container arriving in Hong Kong from Huangpu, the Mainland, destined for Uruguay. Upon inspection, Customs officers seized the batch of suspected counterfeit goods in the container.

Investigation is ongoing.

Under the Trade Descriptions Ordinance, any person who imports or exports any goods to which a forged trade mark is applied commits an offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$500,000 and imprisonment for five years.

Members of the public may report any suspected counterfeiting activities to Customs 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk).



[LegCo subcommittee meeting](#)

The following is issued on behalf of the Legislative Council Secretariat:

The Legislative Council (LegCo) Subcommittee on Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance (Specification of Date for Section 135(1)(a)) Notice and

Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance (Specification of Date for Section 136(1)(a)) Notice will hold its first meeting tomorrow (December 21) at 2.30pm in Conference Room 2B of the LegCo Complex. During the meeting, members of the Subcommittee will elect a Chairman and meet with the Government.

[Hong Kong Monetary Authority tenders to be held on December 31](#)

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority:

Tenders to be held on December 31:

Tender date	: December 31, 2018
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: Q1901
Issue date	: January 2, 2019
Maturity date	: April 3, 2019
Tenor	: 91 Days
Amount on offer	: HK\$55,987 MN

Tender date	: December 31, 2018
Paper on offer	: EF Bills
Issue number	: H1930
Issue date	: January 2, 2019
Maturity date	: July 3, 2019
Tenor	: 182 Days
Amount on offer	: HK\$15,800 MN

[Consumer Price Indices for November 2018](#)

The Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) released today (December 20) the Consumer Price Index (CPI) figures for November 2018. According to the Composite CPI, overall consumer prices rose by 2.6% in November 2018 over the same month a year earlier, slightly smaller than the corresponding increase

(2.7%) in October 2018. Netting out the effects of all Government's one-off relief measures, the year-on-year rate of increase in the Composite CPI (i.e. the underlying inflation rate) in November 2018 was 2.9%, slightly smaller than that in October 2018 (3.0%), mainly due to the decreases in the prices of women's outerclothing and the smaller increases in local transport fares in November 2018.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the average monthly rate of increase in the Composite CPI for the 3-month period from September to November 2018 was 0.3%, and that for the 3-month period from August to October 2018 was 0.2%. Netting out the effects of all Government's one-off relief measures, the average monthly rate of increase in the Composite CPI for the 3-month period from September to November 2018 was 0.3%, and that for the 3-month period from August to October 2018 was 0.2%.

Analysed by sub-index, the year-on-year rates of increase in the CPI(A), CPI(B) and CPI(C) were 3.0%, 2.4% and 2.3% respectively in November 2018, as compared to 3.2%, 2.5% and 2.3% respectively in October 2018. Netting out the effects of all Government's one-off relief measures, the year-on-year rates of increase in the CPI(A), CPI(B) and CPI(C) were 3.3%, 2.8% and 2.6% respectively in November 2018, as compared to 3.5%, 2.9% and 2.6% respectively in October 2018.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, for the 3-month period from September to November 2018, the average monthly rates of increase in the seasonally adjusted CPI(A), CPI(B) and CPI(C) were 0.3%, 0.2% and 0.3% respectively. The corresponding rates of increase for the 3-month period from August to October 2018 were 0.3%, 0.2% and 0.2% respectively. Netting out the effects of all Government's one-off relief measures, the corresponding average monthly rates of increase in the seasonally adjusted CPI(A), CPI(B) and CPI(C) for the 3-month period from September to November 2018 were 0.3%, 0.2% and 0.3% respectively, and the corresponding rates of increase for the 3-month period from August to October 2018 were 0.3%, 0.2% and 0.2% respectively.

Amongst the various CPI components, year-on-year increases in prices were recorded in November 2018 for electricity, gas and water (4.0% in the Composite CPI and 4.4% in the CPI(A)); food (excluding meals bought away from home) (3.5% in the Composite CPI and 3.3% in the CPI(A)); miscellaneous services (3.1% in the Composite CPI and 2.2% in the CPI(A)); housing (3.0% in the Composite CPI and 4.3% in the CPI(A)); meals bought away from home (2.7% in both the Composite CPI and CPI(A)); alcoholic drinks and tobacco (1.9% in the Composite CPI and 2.1% in the CPI(A)); transport (1.6% in the Composite CPI and 0.9% in the CPI(A)) and miscellaneous goods (1.4% in the Composite CPI and 1.7% in the CPI(A)).

On the other hand, year-on-year decreases in prices were recorded in November 2018 for durable goods (-1.8% in the Composite CPI and -1.6% in the CPI(A)) as well as clothing and footwear (-0.2% in the Composite CPI and -0.4% in the CPI(A)).

Taking the first 11 months of 2018 together, the Composite CPI rose by 2.4% over a year earlier. The corresponding increases in the CPI(A), CPI(B)

and CPI(C) were 2.7%, 2.3% and 2.2% respectively. Netting out the effects of all Government's one-off relief measures, the Composite CPI, CPI(A), CPI(B) and CPI(C) rose by 2.6%, 2.9%, 2.6% and 2.4% respectively in the first 11 months of 2018 over a year earlier.

For the 3 months ended November 2018, the Composite CPI rose by 2.6% over a year earlier, while the CPI(A), CPI(B) and CPI(C) rose by 3.2%, 2.5% and 2.3% respectively. The corresponding increases after netting out the effects of all Government's one-off relief measures were 3.0%, 3.5%, 2.9% and 2.6% respectively.

For the 12 months ended November 2018, the Composite CPI was on average 2.3% higher than that in the preceding 12-month period. The respective increases in the CPI(A), CPI(B) and CPI(C) were 2.6%, 2.2% and 2.2% respectively. The corresponding increases after netting out the effects of all Government's one-off relief measures were 2.5%, 2.8%, 2.5% and 2.4% respectively.

Commentary

A Government spokesman said that consumer price inflation went down slightly in November. In the coming months, the underlying inflation rate will likely hover near the current level, as the earlier rises in fresh-letting residential rentals continue to feed through. The Government will monitor the situation closely, particularly the impact on the lower-income people.

Further information

The CPIs and year-on-year rates of change at section level for November 2018 are shown in Table 1. The time series on the year-on-year rates of change in the CPIs before and after removing the effects of all Government's one-off relief measures are shown in Table 2. For discerning the latest trend in consumer prices, it is also useful to look at the changes in the seasonally adjusted CPIs. The corresponding time series on the average monthly rates of change during the latest 3 months for the seasonally adjusted CPIs are shown in Table 3. The rates of change in the original and the seasonally adjusted Composite CPI and the underlying inflation rate are presented graphically in Chart 1.

More detailed CPI data (including year-on-year comparison, month-to-month comparison, seasonally adjusted data series and the CPIs by the Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose (COICOP)) are available in the monthly reports. Users can download the November 2018 issue of the "Monthly Report on the Consumer Price Index"

(www.censtatd.gov.hk/hkstat/sub/sp270.jsp?productCode=B1060001), the time series of CPIs at detailed level

(www.censtatd.gov.hk/hkstat/sub/sp270.jsp?productCode=D5600001), the time series of CPIs at COICOP division level

(www.censtatd.gov.hk/hkstat/sub/sp270.jsp?productCode=D5600002) and the time series of CPIs after netting out the effects of all Government's one-off relief measures

(www.censtatd.gov.hk/hkstat/sub/sp270.jsp?productCode=D5600003) free of charge at the website of the C&SD.

For enquiries about the CPIs, please contact the Consumer Price Index Section of the C&SD (Tel: 3903 7374 or email: cpi@censtatd.gov.hk).