

[DH raids retail stall for suspected illegal possession of unregistered proprietary Chinese medicines \(with photo\)](#)

The Department of Health (DH) and the Police today (October 4) in a joint operation raided a retail stall in Fa Yuen Street, Mong Kok for suspected illegal possession of unregistered proprietary Chinese medicines (pCms).

Acting upon intelligence, the DH investigated and seized four suspected unregistered pCms including Songlonw Moxa Roll and Diaitang Moxa Roll, as well as two other products (no English name, see photo) from the stall.

During the operation, a 67-year-old man was arrested by the Police for suspected illegal possession of unregistered pCms. The DH's investigation is continuing.

According to traditional Chinese medicine theory, moxibustion is a Chinese medicine therapy, and involves the stimulation of acupoints by burning moxa products such as moxa sticks. Through the effects of heat and medicine it may regulate meridians and collaterals and relieve pain. Improper use, however, can lead to skin burns and infections.

According to section 119 of the Chinese Medicine Ordinance (Cap 549), no person shall sell, import or possess any pCm unless the pCm is registered. The maximum penalty is a fine of \$100,000 and two years' imprisonment. Upon completion of the investigation, the DH will work with the Department of Justice on prosecution matters.

"All registered pCms should carry a Hong Kong registration number on the product label in the format of 'HKC-XXXXX' or 'HKP-XXXXX'. Since safety, quality and efficacy of unregistered pCms are not guaranteed, the public should not buy or use products of doubtful composition or from unknown sources. Those who have purchased the concerned products should stop using them and consult healthcare professionals if in doubt or feeling unwell after use," a DH spokesman said.

The public can submit the concerned products to the DH's Chinese Medicine Division on 16/F, AIA Kowloon Tower, Landmark East, 100 How Ming Street, Kwun Tong, during office hours for disposal.

