

Hospital Authority concerned about incident of suspected sale of public hospital patient drugs on online shopping platform

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The spokesperson for the Hospital Authority (HA) made the following statement today (August 13) regarding a suspected incident of selling public hospital patient drugs on an online shopping platform:

The HA is very concerned about a suspected incident of selling public hospital patient drugs on an online shopping platform. The HA has initiated an investigation. If any illegal activity is found to be involved, the HA will pursue the matter seriously and report it to law enforcement agencies for further investigation.

The HA traced the source of the drug based on the online pictures and believed that the drug was prescribed by a doctor upon the discharge of a patient who was admitted to Hong Kong Buddhist Hospital in 2023. The HA has contacted the patient concerned to follow up on the incident.

The HA reminds members of the public that anyone who attempts to obtain drugs through improper means may be breaking the law. The spokesperson for the HA said, "The public should not buy drugs from unknown sources. Apart from the possibility of violating the law, the quality of the drugs is not guaranteed and may have adverse health effects."

The spokesperson said that the HA has strict procedures to handle and dispose of unused drugs, including those that have expired or have not been collected by patients, to prevent the relevant drugs from being used inappropriately. The drugs will be properly managed, and the storage records and distribution procedures are clear and certain. If anyone deliberately resells patients' drugs for profit, the HA will condemn such activities and take corresponding follow-up actions. The HA urges merchants selling drugs not to sell drugs from unknown sources. If there is any doubt about the source of drugs, they should report to relevant law enforcement and regulatory authorities.

The HA has always attached great importance to drug prescription arrangements and will continue to review and optimise relevant arrangements, including charging arrangements, to achieve the goals of reducing waste and rationalisation of resources.