

Replacement arrangements for anti-hypertensive drug Valtensin to end tomorrow

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The Hospital Authority (HA) spokesperson today (August 16) announced the two-week drug replacement exercise for the anti-hypertensive drug Valtensin will end tomorrow (August 17) as scheduled. In response to the earlier announcement by the Department of Health (DH) to recall an anti-hypertensive drug, Valtensin (80mg tablets and 160mg tablets, containing the active drug ingredient valsartan), which was found to contain an impurity, N-nitrosodimethylamine, public hospitals started to provide patients with an optional drug replacement from August 4 for two weeks.

As of yesterday (August 15), over 3,000 patients had their drugs replaced under the exercise. In addition, some other patients concerned had their medications reviewed during their follow-up consultations.

The HA earlier announced the setting up of drug replacement counters at 18 designated public hospitals during the period from August 4 to 17 for patients who had been dispensed with the drug Valtensin on or before July 6 to opt for replacement with an alternative supply of valsartan tablets from other suppliers.

"The drug replacement counters at the 18 designated public hospitals will cease to operate at 9pm tomorrow. Afterwards, those who did not have their drugs replaced but would like to do so can go to the pharmacies of the same 18 public hospitals (see list below) from next Monday (August 20) for drug replacement during office hours," the spokesperson added.

All public hospitals have already ceased to dispense the drug concerned, Valtensin (80 mg tablets and 160mg tablets), since July 6 in response to the DH recall. The spokesperson stressed that according to the assessment of clinical experts, there is no immediate risk to patients for continual intake of the drug. The experts are also of the view that an abrupt stop in taking the drug might cause an adverse effect on a patient's condition. Hence, patients who were dispensed with the drug are recommended to not stop taking it until they attend their next follow-up consultations, in which the patients would be prescribed with the appropriate replacement medication after medical assessment.

"Patients who choose to replace their drugs on hand should bring along their ID card with the drugs, or ask their delegate to bring along a copy of the patient's ID card and the drugs on hand, and go to any of the pharmacies of the 18 designated public hospitals as listed below for drug replacement after verification by the pharmacist on their respective dispensing records.

No payment is required for the drug replacement."

The HA will also continue to closely liaise with the DH on the matter.

The pharmacies of 18 designated public hospitals are listed below:

Hospital	Location of Pharmacy	Enquiry Number
Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital	Main Pharmacy, Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital	6460 0553
Ruttonjee Hospital	Pharmacy, G/F, Admin Building, Ruttonjee Hospital	2291 2079
Queen Mary Hospital	Central Pharmacy, 1/F, Block S, Queen Mary Hospital	2255 6649
Tung Wah Hospital	Pharmacy, 1/F, Centenary Building, Tung Wah Hospital	2589 8111
Queen Elizabeth Hospital	Pharmacy, 2/F, Ambulatory Care Centre, Queen Elizabeth Hospital	5278 2982
Kwong Wah Hospital	Pharmacy, 1/F, North Wing, Kwong Wah Hospital	3517 2700
Our Lady of Maryknoll Hospital	Pharmacy, LG, Outpatient Block, Our Lady of Maryknoll Hospital	2354 0500
United Christian Hospital	Pharmacy, G/F, Block S, United Christian Hospital	3949 4000
Tseung Kwan O Hospital	Pharmacy, LG/F, Hospital Main Block, Tseung Kwan O Hospital	2208 0111
Princess Margaret Hospital	Pharmacy, LG2, Block A, Princess Margaret Hospital	2370 0980
Caritas Medical Centre	Pharmacy, LG1, Wai Ming Block, Caritas Medical Centre	3408 6348
North Lantau Hospital	Pharmacy, 3/F, North Lantau Hospital	3467 7340
Yan Chai Hospital	Pharmacy, 1/F, Block C, Yan Chai Hospital	2417 8383
Prince of Wales Hospital	Main Pharmacy, 1/F, Main Clinical Block and Trauma Centre, Prince of Wales Hospital	5569 9855
Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital	Pharmacy, B1, Block C, Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital	2689 2699
North District Hospital	Out-Patient Pharmacy, North District Hospital	2683 7561
Tuen Mun Hospital	Pharmacy, G/F, Main Block, Tuen Mun Hospital	2468 6872
Pok Oi Hospital	Pharmacy, M/F, Central Wing, Pok Oi Hospital	2401 4592