

香港特別行政區政府

衛生署

中醫藥事務部

九龍觀塘巧明街100號

TWO LANDMARK EAST 16樓



THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG
SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CHINESE MEDICINE DIVISION

16/F, TWO LANDMARK EAST,
100 HOW MING STREET,
KWUN TONG, KOWLOON.

本署檔號 OUR REF.: (382/11) in DH TCMD/1-60/23

來函檔號 YOUR REF.:

電話 TEL.: 39049100

圖文傳真 FAX.: 21239566

15 November 2011

Dear Chinese medicine practitioners,

**Illegal supply of prescription western medicine by
Chinese Medicine Practitioner**

I would like to draw your attention to an incident of illegal supply of an undeclared steroid, dexamethasone, by the registered Chinese medicine practitioner (CMP) Sin Lai-sang (冼麗生).

The contamination first came to light when Department of Health (DH) investigated into a Hospital Authority (HA) referral of a suspected case of drug-induced Cushing's Syndrome affecting a three-year-old boy. He had history of using a topical cream supplied by CMP Sin. Government Laboratory detected dexamethasone in a sample of the cream. Investigation in the clinic of the CMP detected further stocks of the cream, in which dexamethasone was also detected. The concentrations were similar to the dexamethasone cream available in the market.

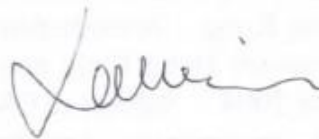
DH is carrying out contact tracing of clients of CMP Sin who have been supplied with the topical cream for management of skin conditions, especially eczema. Patients who reported suspected adverse effects would be advised to seek medical advice from healthcare professionals.

Prolonged use of high dose of dexamethasone is known to cause Cushing's Syndrome, with patients having moon face, hypertension, hyperglycaemia, muscle atrophy, peptic ulcer and even osteoporosis.

Should you encounter patients who had a history of using the cream supplied by CMP Sin, please advise them to contact the telephone hotline of DH at 2125 1133. We would also like to solicit your help to report Cushing's Syndrome and adverse effects suspected to be related to the cream supplied by CMP Sin for our further investigation (by telephone: 37960723 or by fax: 25915824).

Thank you for your attention.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ronald Lam', is centered on the page.

(Dr Ronald Lam)
for Director of Health