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Britain's MHRA recalls 16 Wockhardt medicines

July 12, 2013 | Regulatory | By BioSpectrum Bureau



Singapore: UK's drug regulatory body, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has recalled 16 drugs manufactured by Wockhardt Ltd after identifying 'manufacturing deficiencies'.

MHRA has called this a 'precautionary recall' as there is no specific evidence that the medicines were defective, the agency said. However, pharmacies and wholesalers have been asked to stop selling all the 16 medicines, even though patients haven't been asked to return the drugs.

"There is no evidence of a patient safety risk. However, the MHRA has to act in the interest of public health as poor manufacturing standards cannot be allowed to continue," the agency said in a statement.

The medicines relate to treatments for infections, high blood pressure, hypertension, diabetes, depression, schizophrenia, epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, thyroid conditions, dementia in Alzheimer's patients and other diseases were manufactured at the company's plant in Waluj.

In its statement, the MHRA has also said that the plant suffered from poor cleaning practices and defective ventilation systems. The agency inspection also found evidence of 'forged documents relating to staff training records.'

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Confirming the recall, Wockhardt has said in press interviews that this recall would result in a one-time charge of $2.25 million this year. Exports from the Waluj plant constitute less than five percent of the company's total UK sales and less than two percent of overall sales, it added.

In May, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) had imposed an import ban on products from this factory as the plant failed FDA's safety inspection.