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Information Exchange System

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Suspension of Manufacturing Licence held by Pan Pharmaceuticals Limited, Sydney

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) in Australia has suspended the licence to manufacture medicines held by Pan Pharmaceuticals Limited, Sydney, for a period of six months starting 28 April 2003. This suspension order was issued after TGA inspectors found a series of safety and quality violations by the company, including substitution of ingredients, manipulation of test results and substandard manufacturing processes.

219 products manufactured and supplied by Pan Pharmaceuticals Limited in Australia are being recalled with immediate effect. More products are likely to be recalled in the days ahead. A complete list of all recalled products and other related information are posted on the TGA website (<http://www.health.gov.au/tga/recalls/panprod.htm>). The list can be made available upon request to Dr Lembit R ago's office, Essential Drugs and Medicines Policy, WHO, Geneva.

This Information Exchange Alert is also posted on the WHO (Essential Drugs and Medicines Policy) website (<http://www.who.int/medicines/edmtopics.shtml>), under Drug Alerts.

Reference:

1. Communication to WHO, Geneva, 29 April 2003, from WHO Western Pacific Regional Office, Manila, Philippines
2. Therapeutics Goods Administration (Australia) Media Release, 28 April 2003, available from URL: <http://www.health.gov.au/tga/docs/html/mediarel/mrpan.htm>