

## Joint Press Release

### “Response: Punjab Institute of Cardiology Alleged Heart Medicine Contamination”

**31 January 2012, Kabul, Afghanistan.** In response to the Punjab Institute of Cardiology alleged medicine contamination, the Ministry of Public Health and the World Health Organization (WHO) want to reassure the Afghan public that this incident is limited to a batch only distributed at the institute. According to WHO these batches of medicines were not distributed outside of Lahore or in any other countries. Therefore there is no need for alarm.

The Ministry of Public Health is continuously investigating and taking every step to address this issue, in the interest of public health. If you have any of the following symptoms, please contact a doctor or medical clinic immediately, especially if you have taken any heart medications:

- Hyper skin pigmentation
- Bleeding from various parts of body
- Gastro-intestinal symptoms

If you have any of the below listed medications, **STOP TAKING THEM IMMEDIATELY**. If they are the same batch number as mentioned bellow, immediately contact a doctor or medical clinic.

Brand Name of Medicine	Scientific Name	Batch number	Manufacturer	Indication
Tab Cardiovestin	Simvastatin 20mg	11L686, 11L710, 11G585, 11E451	Mega Pharmaceutical (Pvt) Ltd, Lahore	Lipid lowering drug
Alfagril	Clopidogrel	Multiple batches	Alfalah Pharma (Pvt) Ltd. Lahore	Anti platelet
Tablet Concont 5mg	Amlodipine besylate 5mg	24,25,27, 28, 29	Swiss Pharmaceutical (Pvt) Ltd, Karachi	Calcium channel blocker
Tablet Solprin 300mg	Soluble Aspirin 300mg	535	Pharmawise Lab (Pvt) Ltd, Lahore	NSAID
Tablet Atenolol 100mg	Tab Atenolol 100mg	110	Zafa Pharmaceutical Labs (Pvt) Ltd, Karachi	Beta blocker drug
Tablet Isotab 20mg	Isosorbide-5-mononitrate 20mg	J-098, J-101, J-100	Efroz Chemical Industries (Pvt) Ltd, Karachi	Nitrates anti hypertensive

Two last items of the above medicines (Atenolol and Isosorbide-5-mononitrate) were identified in Afghanistan, although these are from different batches, they are quarantined and local health authorities are observing the situation.

For public safety, the Ministry of Public Health calls on all pharmacies, doctors and health facilities to stop use and distribution of the above listed medications. Border costumes and Police are advised to quarantine them in the first checking point. It is also the responsibility of every Afghans to stay informed, only purchase medication brand names recommended by physician and from reputable sources like pharmacies or medical facilities.

#### For more information, please contact:

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