

Press Release: 21 April 2015

HPRA cautions consumers against purchase of illegal slimming products

The Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) today issued a strong precautionary message for consumers on the health dangers of taking slimming products purchased online. This follows coverage in the British press of the death of a young woman which is being linked to the consumption of a product purchased online that reportedly contained Dinitrophenol (DNP). The HPRA states that products containing this substance are not fit for human consumption and have the potential to cause serious harm.

The HPRA is warning consumers, as it has continuously in the past, not to purchase any slimming products which may be available illegally online, as products have been found to contain unauthorised substances. Occasionally, these substances are undeclared on the pack. To date, only a small number of tablets containing Dinitrophenol have been detained by the HPRA. However, as the internet is an unregulated source of supply of slimming products and other medicines, we are concerned that products containing this substance may have been purchased by Irish consumers.

The HPRA is advising consumers if they have taken any product containing Dinitrophenol and, if they are feeling any ill effects, to contact their doctor immediately. Any remaining quantity should not be taken. The HPRA welcomes any information that can assist its investigations and it can be contacted in confidence by e-mail at enforcement@hpra.ie or by phone on (01) 634 3436.

The HPRA notes that the investigation into the death of this young woman is ongoing and, in due course, it may update its advice.

The HPRA, in conjunction with the Revenue's Customs Service and An Garda Síochána, continually monitors and investigates instances of illegal supply of medicines through retail sales in Ireland and via the Internet and actively enforces against suspected breaches of the law. For further information consumers are urged to access the HPRA leaflet [Dangers of Buying Medicines Online](#), which is available on its website at www.hpra.ie.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- Weber Shandwick (01) 679 8600
- Siobhan Molloy / Orla Molloy 086 817 5066 / 087 770 5108

ABOUT THE HEALTH PRODUCTS REGULATORY AUTHORITY

The Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) protects and enhances public health and animal health by regulating medicines, medical devices and other health products. The products under its remit include human and veterinary medicines, medical devices, blood and blood components, tissues and cells, organs for transplantation and cosmetics. Formerly known as the Irish Medicines Board (IMB), it became the Health Products Regulatory Authority on 1 July 2014.