



PHA/JFD/IEA.12

28 June 1990

PHA Information Exchange Service

ALERT

COUNTERFEIT "ZANTAC": UPDATE

The Medicines Control Agency in the United Kingdom informed WHO in September 1989 of the recall of a batch of Zantac imported from Greece that was suspected to be counterfeit. The manufacturer, Glaxo, has provided WHO with full details of ongoing inquiries and the Medicines Control Agency has issued the following Drug Alert to pharmacists and hospitals within the United Kingdom:

"The Department of Health instituted a recall of Zantac 150 mg batch number AO45C8 sourced from Greece in February 1989.

"Stocks and records should be re-checked to ensure that this batch has not been supplied.

"A report has been received from the Greek authorities that batch number A149J8 may have been counterfeited. This batch is also being recalled as a precautionary measure.

"Both these batch numbers are authentic batch numbers, previously used by Glaxo, Greece.

"Stock seized by the Greek Authorities does not bear the security seal which is now being used to guarantee authenticity. Stock that does not bear this seal should not be used.

"Recipients of the above batches are requested to return all stocks, direct to their supplier for replacement or credit."

Reference: Drug Alert dated 15 June 1990 from the Medicines Control Agency, Department of Health, London.

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