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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Directorate General of Health Services
Central Drugs Standard Control Organization
(Enforcement Division)
FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi-110002

Dated: -11/08/23

Alert On Suspected Falsified Versions of Glucagon-Like Peptide 1 Receptor Agonist (GLP-1-RA) Products

The World Health Organization (WHO) has informed about a safety threat which has been identified with falsified versions of Glucagon-like Peptide 1 Receptor Agonist (GLP-1-RA) products. WHO through its Threat Assessment No. 2/2023 had alerted that there has been a recent surge in demand for, and reported shortages of, GLP-1-RA products indicated to manage diabetes type II, which are also sought for weight loss. The WHO has received several reports of falsified GLP-1 receptor agonists and it was informed that since late 2022, global demand for GLP-1-RA products has risen, with reported shortages adversely impacting people living with Diabetes Type II. There has been a surge of online information promoting the use of GLP-1 RA products for weight loss, encouraging risky procurement behaviours. It is possible that falsified versions are sold and distributed through unregulated outlets, including social media platforms.

Glucagon-like peptide 1 receptor agonist (GLP-1-RA) are a class of pharmaceuticals indicated to manage Diabetes Type II, which are also sought for weight loss. They are marketed globally under a variety of brands.

Based on the above the following advisory is provided:

a) **To Doctors & Healthcare Professionals:**
   (i) The Doctors and Healthcare professionals should carefully prescribe and suggest an alternative if need arises. Further, educate their patients for reporting of any ADRs with the usage of procured medical products like GLP-1-RA products.

b) **To consumers & patients:**
   (i) To be careful and only procure the necessary medical products (herein GLP-1-RA) from authorized sources with proper purchase bill.

c) **To Regulatory Authorities (All States/UTs Drugs Controllers and all Zonal and Sub-Zonal Offices of CDSCO):**
   (i) Instruct to your officers to keep a strict vigil on the movement, sale, distribution, stock of the said drug products in the market, draw samples and initiate necessary action as per the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules made thereunder.

(Dr. Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi)
Drugs Controller General (I)

Copy to:

1. All States/UTs Drugs Controllers.
2. Zonal and Sub-Zonal offices of CDSCO.
3. All India Organization of Chemists & Druggists (AIOCD), 201, Safalya Building, Opp Jaigopal Industrial Estate, Baburao Parulekar Marg, Dadar (W), Maharashtra 400028, MS (aiocd@aiocd.com).
4. JS (R), Drugs Regulation Section, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi.
5. CDSCO-IT Cell for publication on website.