

## **FDA'S TAMALE REGIONAL OFFICE INTERCEPTS UNREGISTERED OXYTOCIN**

The Tamale Regional Office of the Food and Drugs Authority (FDA), on Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2019, intercepted a box of Oxytocin found in the possession of a passenger on a Bolgatanga bound bus traveling from Kumasi.

The interception of the box of Oxytocin by the Tamale Regional Officers was as a result of a tip off from a Midwife, who was on the same bus with the suspect in possession of the box of oxytocin, who fortunately, managed to enquire about the destination of the suspect.

The Regional Officers were than alerted to wait for the suspect at his destination, Tamale, and with assistance from volunteers nearby, the box containing the suspected Oxytocin was seized from the suspect who managed to escape before his arrest.

Upon inspection after the seizure, it was revealed that, the box of Oxytocin contained 1400 ampoules of unregistered Oxytocin of three different brands namely; Labtocin, A-tocin, and Oxytocin injections.

Oxytocins (Uterotonics) are artificially manufactured medicines that aid in inducing labor or strengthen contractions to aid childbirth. It is often given to speed up delivery of the placenta and reduce the risk of heavy bleeding by contracting the uterus. During breastfeeding, oxytocin promotes the movement of milk into the breast, allowing it to be excreted by the nipple. It is worth noting that, Oxytocins are naturally or artificially manufactured.

The case has since been reported to the Northern Regional Police Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and investigations have begun.

The FDA is however using this opportunity to advice hospitals, pharmacies, and health facilities to ensure that Oxytocin (Uterotonics) are sourced from authorized sources and or vendors.

The Drug Therapeutic Committees and Procurement Entities of health facilities should also check the registration status of medicinal products including Oxytocins (Uterotonics) from the FDA's website or contact the FDA before completing procurement processes and dispensing to patients.

The FDA is meanwhile continuing with its market surveillance activities to ensure the withdrawals and safe disposal of all such products to ensure the wellbeing of the public.

The general public is assured that the FDA is working continuously to protect public health and safety.

The Food and Drugs Authority (FDA), further encourages the public to provide information on any activities that are likely to endanger public health and safety with regard to its mandate or for any information and enquiry related to the FDA's mandate through any of the following numbers:



0299802932 or 0299802933



0206973065



4015 (On Vodafone, MTN and AirtelTigo)



[www.fdaghana.gov.gh](http://www.fdaghana.gov.gh)



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