

FDA RAID CHEMICAL AND PHARMACY SHOPS OF TRAMADOL IN B/A

The Brong Ahafo Regional Office of the Food and Drugs Authority (FDA) has seized one thousand, four hundred and fifty (1,450) tablets and capsules of Tramadol during a Market Surveillance exercise carried out within the Sunyani East and West Municipalities.

The Regional Head of the Brong Ahafo Region, Mr. Matthew Nkum Gyang, together with other Officers visited a total of 26 pharmacy and 22 chemical shops in Sunyani, Abesim, Fiapre, Kotokrom, Odomase, Dormaa Akwamu and Asuotiano.

The proliferation and abuse of Tramadol which are usually in high doses (120mg, 200mg, 225mg and 250mg) has become a major national concern and the FDA is resolved within its mandate to ensure an eventual eradication of this menace which has a wide reaching negative effect on the public health.

Mr. Nkum explained that “the Chemical shops from which the Tramadol tablets were seized were not permitted by law to sell them while those found on the shelves in the pharmacy shops visited were of higher dosages of 120mg and 220mg which obviously have not been registered by the FDA”.

Tramadol is a synthetic opioid analgesic which is a Prescription Only Medication (POM) used to treat moderate to severe pain and works on the nervous system and brain, to reduce pain

It must be noted that the FDA’s approved dosages for Tramadol is 50mg and 100mg and it must be dispensed strictly on a doctor’s prescription by pharmacies.

The FDA would continue to step up public education on the dangers of abusing Tramadol which unfortunately, some section of the populace are taking for recreational and euphoric purposes, because the long-term implications could have dire consequences on their health.

Mr. Nkum also said that all the seized products would be safely disposed off after the exercise is completed throughout the Region”. He further revealed that the swoops will not end at the pharmacy and over the counter chemical sellers shops, but the FDA has

extended its monitoring to the pubs in the various Districts and the necessary regulatory actions would be taken against those who flout the law.

The FDA also took advantage of the exercise to educate both pharmacies and Over the Counter Medicine Sellers to ensure their operations are in accordance with the law.

The exercise, which is on-going, would be carried out nationwide to curb the menace of Tramadol.