

Type of Communication:
Identification Number:

Safety Monitoring
FDA/CSD/CPE/PRS/21/0016

For Immediate Release:

4th October 2021

SAFETY ALERT- USE OF INJECTABLE GLUTATHIONE AS SKIN LIGHTENING AGENT

The Food and Drugs Authority (FDA) has noted with concern and cautions the public on the unsafe use of injectable glutathione which is being promoted on social media for skin lightening and bleaching, correction of uneven skin tone and reduction of blemishes.


Consumers are to take note that no injectable glutathione or any other injectable skin lightening agent have been approved by the FDA for such use. So far there is no clinical evidence on the safety and effectiveness of these products and no published guidelines for correct dosing and duration of treatment.


Injectable glutathione poses significant safety risk to users as its side effects include toxic effects on the liver, kidneys and nervous system, and a serious skin reaction known as Stevens Johnson Syndrome. Glutathione which also affects the production of the pigment that gives the human skin its colour (melanin), may pose a risk of skin cancer with long term use.


Additionally, unapproved products which would not have been properly evaluated by the FDA, may be improperly manufactured, and may contain unknown harmful ingredients or contaminants. Apart from the dangers of the product itself, administering it under unsterile conditions or by people who are not certified to administer injectable preparations is unsafe and may lead to transmission of diseases such as HIV, Hepatitis C and Hepatitis B.


In view of the above, consumers are advised to seek the help of certified medical professionals for any skin conditions and avoid buying injectable medicinal products online or from unauthorized or unqualified professionals.


The public is also urged to report the sale of glutathione injectable products or any unregistered products to the FDA on the contacts below:


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