Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

15 August 2013

FDA ADVISORY
No. 2013-026

SUBJECT: ARTHRITE PLUS AS FOOD SUPPLEMENT AND ARTHRITE SGC as TRADITIONAL HERBAL PRODUCT

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has received queries from the public, if **ARTHRITE SGC,** which has been lately advertised in several newspapers of general circulation, is the same with **ARTHRITE PLUS.**

ARTHRITE PLUS of Northfield Laboratories Inc.-Malolos, Bulacan, is a Food supplement with Registration No. FR-72400. Its main ingredients are Glucosamine Hydrochloride and Chondroitin Sulfate. As a food supplement, it carries a label "NO APPROVED THERAPEUTIC CLAIMS", and as such, it cannot be advertised as having some therapeutic values.

On the other hand, **ARTHRITE SGC** 150 mg capsule of Rotex Pharma Philippines, Inc.-Makati, is registered as Traditionally Used Herbal Product with Registration No. THPR-18. The ingredients of this product are different herb formulations, and based on traditional or folkloric evidence is approved for addressing joint pains.

As a Traditional Herbal Product, it is classified as an Over the Counter (OTC) preparation, and this could be advertised as long as the claim/s are those contained only in the approved label or packaging registered with the FDA.

Brand name approval of these products is in accordance with A.O. No. 2005-0016 dated 21 June 2005, "General Policies & Guidelines Governing Brand Names of Products for Registration with the Bureau of Food and Drugs (now FDA), paragraph V, section 2 thereof, which as a general rule enumerates the brand names that cannot be allowed registration with the BFAD (now FDA), thus:

Section 2. Only the following brand names shall not be allowed:

(a) Names that are identical to those already registered with the BFAD (now FDA) in the same product classification; and

(b) Names that are offensive, obscene, scandalous or otherwise contrary to public morals and policy.

Since the two products are not in the same product classification, the brand name ARTHRITE 150 mg SOFTGEL CAPSULE for Traditional Medicine and the product name ARTHRITE Plus with Glucosamine and Chondroitin Sulfate for Food Supplement are allowed.

Having both registered with the FDA, and in order not to confuse the public, it is therefore necessary that any advertising materials of both products should always refer to the approved brand name and/or product name as ARTHRITE PLUS or ARTHRITE SGC as the case maybe.

For more details and information, please check the FDA website at www.fda.gov.ph to validate its registration status before buying any health product.

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