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**DOH-FDA ADVISORY**

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**FDA ADVISORY ON DEHP CONTAMINATION**

**What is DEHP?**

Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP) is widely used as a plasticizer in the manufacturing of articles including medical devices such as intravenous bags and tubing, blood bags and infusion tubings and nasogastric tubes.

While low doses of DEHP are generally safe, high doses or prolonged exposure can have harmful effects. Therefore, exposure should be limited.

Children are especially prone to the harmful effects of high doses of DEHP or to repeated exposure which can lead to testicular effects, fertility problems and toxicity to kidneys.

**Facts:**

1. Taiwanese authorities have discovered that the plasticizer (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP) was illegally added to a food product raw material called as cloudy agent which improves emulsification of the product.
2. The Taiwan government has informed DOH that the implicated material may have been imported to the Philippines by a company. Efforts to trace the local counterpart of this company are currently in progress.
3. FDA is currently monitoring high-risk products from Taiwan (sports drinks, fruit juices and soft drinks) to ensure that they are safe for consumers.



**SUZETTE H. LAZO, MD, FPSECP**  
Acting Director IV