GlaxoSmithKline to Pay $750 Million in Federal Health Care Fraud Settlement

GlaxoSmithKline has agreed to plead guilty and pay a massive fine totaling $750 million to the federal government and the states to resolve allegations that the company caused false claims to be submitted to government health care programs for certain quantities of adulterated medicines and pay a $150 million criminal fine that includes forfeiture of $10 million in assets.

Under the plea agreement, S8 Pharma’s Puerto Rico plant and would pay about $750 million to resolve the allegations.

The company had said in July it reached an agreement in principle relating to quality problems at its S8 Pharma Puerto Rico Inc’s plant and would pay about $750 million to resolve the allegations.

The plea agreement also includes forfeiture of $10 million and a civil settlement, which will pay $600 million to settle allegations that, because the drugs were adulterated, false claims for reimbursement were submitted to government health care programs. The drugs — the anti-nausea medicine Kytril, skin nausea medicine Kytril, skin ointment Bactroban, Paxil CR and diabetes medicine Avandamet — were made at the plant between 2001 and 2005.

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A federal judge must approve the plea agreement.

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Of the $750 million, Glaxo will pay $600 million to settle allegations that, because the drugs were adulterated, false claims for reimbursement were submitted to government health care programs. The drugs — the anti-nausea medicine Kytril, skin ointment Bactroban, Paxil CR and diabetes drug Avandamet — were made at the plant between 2001 and 2003.

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A whistleblower who filed a lawsuit under the U.S. False Claims Act will receive about $96 million from the federal share of the settlement, the Justice Department said.

A federal judge must approve the plea agreement.

Glaxo expressed regret that its factory did not operate within the necessary standards and practices.

Their company worked hard to resolve fully the manufacturing issues at the Carolina facility prior to its closure in 2009 and we are committed to continuous improvement in our manufacturing processes,” PD Villarreal, the company’s CEO of VOCO: "Foreign markets are very important to us”

The head of Dubai Dental Services of the United Arab Emirates’ Ministry of Health Dr Aisha Sultan has called on the central government in Abu Dhabi to increase spending on preventive oral-health programmes.

She said that while other Middle Eastern countries like Bahrain have successfully implemented such programmes, the UAE still lacks political will to introduce regular dental checks of schoolchildren, especially in the country’s neglected Northern rural areas.

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According to the results of a national oral health survey conducted in early 2010, caries is highly prevalent in the primary dentition of most five-year-old children living in the UAE.

It also found that only 17 per cent of all children were complete caries free.

Stem cell bank opens in Mumbai

Health care consulting company Gencoval Strategic Services in India has announced its partnership with a French biomedical institute to open the first dental stem cell bank in Mumbai. The new company Stemate BioTech will use a patented technology from Institute Clinident BioPharma, main Aix-en-Provence in France to extract and preserve Dental Pulp Stem Cells derived from primary and wisdom teeth under cryogenic conditions for various therapeutic applications in the future, company officials said.

The latest research has indicated that adult stem cells, which can also be extracted from bone marrow and other parts of the human body, have the potential to treat non-communicable diseases like cancer or heart disease and to repair or regenerate entire organs. Dental Pulp Stem Cells have been found to form at least 20 different unique tissues, including dental enamel, dentin, blood vessels and nerve cells.

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