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AFSSAPS Press Release

Warning against the use of the MTP KIT sold on the Internet as a medication kit for the termination of pregnancy

The *Direction Générale de la Santé* (DGS, or French Directorate General for Health) and the *Agence Française de Sécurité Sanitaire des Produits de Santé* (AFSSAPs, or the French Health Products Safety Agency) want to warn consumers of the serious health risks related to the use of a product called MTP KIT, which is sold on the Internet as a medication for TOP (Termination of Pregnancy).

This CIPLA Limited product is sold mainly on the Eurodrugstore.eu website's "birth control" page. This is an illegal medication that does not have a marketing authorisation (MA = an authorisation granted by the health authorities, such as the AFSSAPS in France, after assessing the quality, safety and efficacy of a medication) or an import authorisation for the French territory.

The modalities of use of the product, and particularly its method of administration, expose the women who use it to real danger (failed abortion, haemorrhage, serious infection). Furthermore, the controls performed by the AFSSAPS laboratories demonstrated that the composition of the MTP KIT is unsuitable.

In France, great emphasis is placed on the right for women to have a TOP if they want one as well as on the quality of the abortions, regardless of where they are performed: in health establishments, family planning centres, health centres or a physician's office. Performing TOPs is strictly controlled to ensure the utmost safety and prevent complications.

Information on what steps need to be taken, which TOP techniques are possible, what psychosocial support is available, and how to contact regional telephone information hotlines in France are all provided by the TOP guide:

http://www.sante.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/Guides_d'information_sur_l_IVG_pour_les_femmes.pdf

This document also provides information for minors wishing to have an anonymous, free TOP.

Moreover, it should be reiterated that certain associations (such as the *Mouvement français pour le planning familial*, or the French family planning movement) help women in difficult situations who are confronted with an unwanted pregnancy.

Finally, complete and educational contraception information is available in French on the choisirsacontraception.fr website.

The DGS and the AFSSAPS restate that it is not recommended to take medications purchased on the Internet, since their source, quality and safety cannot be guaranteed. Purchasing medications on the Internet entails many health risks for consumers and can promote incorrect use. Only retail pharmacies are regularly inspected by the health authorities.

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