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 Pharmco Puerto Rico will plead guilty to a felony of releasing adulterated medicines and pay a $150 million criminal fine that includes forfeiture of $10 million in assets.

According to a whistleblower who filed a lawsuit under the U.S. False Claims Act, the company caused false claims to be submitted to government health care programs for reimbursement were submitted to government health care programs.

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

The settlement includes forfeiture of $10 million in assets. Under the plea agreement, S8 Pharmco Puerto Rico will plead guilty to a felony of releasing adulterated medicines and pay a $150 million criminal fine that includes forfeiture of $10 million in assets.

Asked during a news conference if the actions by the company were intentional, Carmen Ortiz, the U.S. Attorney for Massachusetts, said that was the government’s contention.

“They received warning letters from the FDA and yet they went ignored,” she told reporters. Ortiz also said the investigation into individuals was “ongoing.”

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.

The Justice Department said.

The head of Dubai Dental Services of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) 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.

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.

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.

Health care consulting company Genovad 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 Stemade Biotech will use a patented technology from Institute Clindient BioPharmain 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.

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