Notification on the Management of the use of Leopard Bones
State Food and Drug Administration Note [2006] No. 118

To all branches of the State Food and Drug Administration (SFDA) in all provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities:

In accordance with the provisions of the relevant departments of the State, there has been a total ban on leopards hunted from the wild and the sale & purchase of leopard bones, since January 1, 2006. To reach a proper settlement on the management of the use of leopard bones, we hereby announce the relevant issues as follows:

1) To avoid incurring economic losses on the pharmaceutical manufacturing enterprises, it is permissible to use up the existing inventory of leopard bones.

2) As for non-oral prescriptions of Chinese medicine containing leopard bone varieties, leopard bones should be completely removed from the prescription, and without substitutions. After the removal of leopard bones from the Chinese medicine varieties, information involving the revision of the standard of quality, labeling of the pharmaceutical packagings and necessary modifications to the manuals should be reported, in accordance with the corresponding requirements of the Supplemental Application for Drug Registration. The Chinese Pharmacopoeia Commission shall be responsible for the technical audit of the amendment of the standard of quality.

3) As for oral prescriptions of Chinese medicine containing leopard bone varieties, the pharmaceutical manufacturing enterprises could report information in line with the situations of the specific varieties, in accordance with the requirement of "substituting or reducing what is considered toxic or endangered medicinal herbs under the National Drugs Standard", set out by the Supplemental Application for Drug Registration. The Chinese Pharmacopoeia Commission shall be responsible for the technical audit tasks.

Each provincial Food and Drug Administration Department shall relate this notice to the relevant pharmaceutical manufacturing enterprises in its area in a timely manner, and urge the enterprises to comply with the abovementioned tasks.

State Food and Drug Administration
March 21, 2006