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 <h5 style="color: #ff0000"> Warning to traditional medicine companies</h5> KUALA LUMPUR: The Health Ministry yesterday issued a stern warning to manufacturers and importers of traditional medicine not to adulterate their registered products. <table border="0" cellspacing="3" cellpadding="0" width="200" align="right"> </table> Worried with the rising number of cases, the ministry said for the past two years, it had identified several products which had been adulterated.
They involved 17 products which were mostly for men's health; weight loss (six); cough medicine (five) and joint pain (four).

 Ingredients that had been identified in the adulterated products were sildenafil and tadalafil, which were commonly prescribed for erectile dysfunction, sibutramine which is used for weight reduction and steroids, the ministry said in a statement.

 The ministry would not hesitate to take stern action against those who failed to comply with the standards and requirements, including cancelling the product registration and instructing a total recall of the adulterated product from the market.
 The company's manufacturing licence for local manufacturers could also be withdrawn for six months, and applications for new product registration submitted by "wrongdoers" would not be considered during the period.

 For repeat offenders, the ministry stated these punitive actions might be implemented for up to one year.

 At the same time, legal action could also be used to deal with such companies.