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 Kytrol, Bactroban, Paxil CR and Avandamet.

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

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 Kytrol, skin ointment Bactroban, anti-depressant Paxil CR and diabetes drug Avandamet—were made at the plant between 2001 and 2005.

The company was accused of failing to ensure the drugs were properly manufactured at the plant and thus effective, according to government healthcare programs. The drugs—the anti-nausea medicine Kytrol, skin ointment Bactroban, anti-depressant Paxil CR and diabetes drug Avandamet—were made at the plant between 2001 and 2005.

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

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