

### **Novartis facing penalty in Japan**

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Japanese health authorities said on Wednesday that they will soon make a decision on a possible penalty against the local unit of Swiss pharmaceutical giant Novartis for failing to report drug side effects. That followed media reports which said regulators would slap a 15-day suspension order on the firm, meaning the company could not sell most of its drugs during the two-week period – a first for a pharmaceutical firm operating in Japan. Tokyo-based Novartis Pharma KK in December admitted it failed to report more than 3,000 cases of patient health problems that may have been caused by adverse effects from about two dozen company drugs. AFP

*Regulatory*