

Health supplements recalled as 26 hospitalized in Japan

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Credit: Yaroslav Shuraev from Pexels

A Japanese drugmaker said Monday that 26 people had been hospitalized in relation to health supplements the company has recalled because of concerns over kidney problems.

The prescription-free supplements contain a type of yeast-fermented rice called "beni koji", which Kobayashi Pharmaceutical reportedly says it has supplied to around 50 other firms worldwide.

The drugmaker on Friday said it was voluntarily recalling three [products](#) containing beni koji, which aims to lower bad cholesterol, after customer complaints.

On Monday the Osaka-based firm said it was aware of 26 hospitalizations, but had "not yet reached a conclusion" on a potential link between the product and kidney issues.

"After analysis... we found a possibility that the [raw materials](#) used to make beni koji may contain [ingredients](#) that our company had not intended to include," Kobayashi Pharmaceutical said.

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