

Counterfeit medicines are easy to buy, hard to detect, and dangerous to your health.

COUNTERFEIT MEDICINES, AND THE UNREGULATED ONLINE PHARMACIES THAT SELL THEM, are spreading and have become harder to detect. Counterfeit medicines often do not contain all the ingredients they say they do, meaning patients may lose the benefits they expect, and may contain harmful substances.

Unlike counterfeit medicines, authentic medicines are reviewed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for safety, effectiveness and quality. Authentic medicines also undergo highly regulated and monitored quality manufacturing and distribution processes to help ensure they are as safe and effective as possible.



CONSULT YOUR DOCTOR

- **Lower your risk of buying a fake** by asking your doctor's opinion on where to make your purchase.



DO YOUR RESEARCH

- **If buying medicine online, you will need to do more background research** on the company before buying.
- **Choosing to purchase your medicines from licensed retailers** helps ensure you receive the medicine you were prescribed.



BEWARE RED FLAGS

- **Legitimate pharmacies require a valid prescription**, have a licensed pharmacist on staff and a physical address, even if it is an online retailer.
- **It is a red flag if the price of the medicine is much lower** than other online or in-store pharmacy prices for the same medicine.



LEARN TO SPOT A FAKE MEDICINE

- **Patients have sometimes noticed differences** in taste, consistency, or appearance of medicines.
- **Compare your new medicine and packaging to your last ones**, particularly if buying them from a different pharmacy.
- **You may feel different or have a different reaction** to the new medicine.



BUY FROM TRUSTED ONLINE SOURCES

- **Legitimate online pharmacies will require a prescription** issued by a licensed health care professional and will provide warnings about the possible side effects of the drug.
- **Before you fill your prescription through an online pharmacy**, make sure you are purchasing from a legitimate site. Visit the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's **BeSafeRx** for information on locating a legitimate pharmacy.



IF YOU SUSPECT YOU HAVE PURCHASED FAKE MEDICINE

- **Contact your pharmacist or doctor** if you suspect you have taken a fake medicine or have questions about your medication. Do not discard.
- **If you are having unusual or new symptoms, contact your local poison control center at 800-222-1222** for confidential and free health care guidance.

If you can't afford a medicine, Pfizer may be able to help. **Pfizer RxPathways** connects eligible patients to a range of assistance programs that offer insurance support, co-pay help, and medicines for free or at a savings.