

## THE QUALITY OF OUR DRUGS AND PATIENT'S SAFETY: A KEY PRIORITY FOR SANOFI



All pharmaceutical products are potentially targeted by counterfeiting.

Sanofi is committed to **preventing and fighting against counterfeit medicines by:**

- Developing innovative solutions, securing the supply chain and **proactively protecting its drugs** to prevent from counterfeit.
- **Testing of all suspected drugs** in Sanofi's specialized laboratory.
- Sanofi cooperates with local, state, and federal authorities to support their work in the fight against counterfeiting.



**FAKE MEDICINES,  
A REAL DANGER FOR HEALTH**



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**SANOFI COMMITTED TO  
FIGHTING COUNTERFEITING  
WORLDWIDE**



## TOP TIPS



### Talking to your doctor

Make sure you talk to a doctor before using any prescription medication for the first time. Your doctor will check your medical history and will be able to prescribe the right medication to treat your condition.



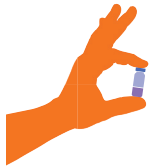
### Patient groups

These offer support to people who are looking for advice, can provide educational material about specific conditions and information about help in your area. Patient groups cannot diagnose a condition or give out medication, so they should not be consulted instead of a doctor.



### Your medication

If you notice any side effects, report these to your doctor and the manufacturer.



### If you think the medicine you have purchased may be counterfeit

Contact your doctor or pharmacist immediately. Make a note of the product, and where and when you purchased it. You may be asked to hand over the suspected medicine to your local health authority.



### Why is there an increase in counterfeit medicines?

Counterfeit medicines are one aspect of global organized crime. Huge profits are made from this problem, which puts our health and wellbeing at risk, and destroys the bond of trust between patient and healthcare provider.



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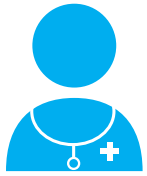


**PROTECT YOURSELF FROM  
COUNTERFEIT MEDICINES**



## COMMON SENSE: OUR MOST POWERFUL ALLY

We have many choices over how to obtain the medicine our doctor prescribes. This can be confusing. More and more counterfeit medicines are being sold each year and they could be harmful if taken. You might not even know when you have been given a counterfeit medicine – they often look exactly like the real thing and it can be very hard to tell the difference between the genuine medicine your doctor prescribes and a counterfeit product.



Because of this, you should always obtain your medicines from a reputable pharmacist whom you know and trust. Taking the genuine medication is important, not just for your health and wellbeing but so that your doctor can plan future care based on accurate information.

## ARE COUNTERFEIT MEDICINES DANGEROUS?

The criminals who make the counterfeit medicine may not provide truthful information about the ingredients or who made the medicine. Counterfeit medicines may be produced in unregulated environments, and therefore may not comply with U.S. standards. Taking counterfeit medicines could prevent you from feeling better and stop your condition from improving. If you take a counterfeit medicine that has little or no active ingredient, it may affect your medical condition.



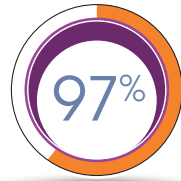
### Remember

Any medicine or medical device (e.g. an inhaler) can be counterfeit.



## IF I PURCHASE MEDICINES OVER THE INTERNET, SHOULD I BE CONCERNED?

The Internet is the biggest unregulated market in the world – and a place where you can easily become victim of dishonest online pharmacies. Shockingly, according to the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP), of the over 10,700 Internet sites reviewed, NABP found that 97% of all sites fall on the Not Recommended category because they appear to be operating in conflict with pharmacy laws and practice standards. Issues related to: <sup>(1)</sup>



- No physical address in the U.S.
- Do not require a valid prescription
- Issue prescription per online consultation or questionnaire only
- Offers foreign or non-FDA (Food and Drug Administration) approved drug

### If buying online

Do not buy from sites that offer to sell you prescription medicines without a prescription, or sell medicines that are not approved by the Food and Drug Administration ([www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov)).

Do not buy from websites that do not have a registered pharmacist available to answer questions.

Do not buy from websites that offer “bulk discounts”, “sample packs”, “new cure” or “amazing results”.

If the website offers an “online consultation”, be very careful. Unlicensed websites often offer this service to make them look professional and legal.

Only buy from safe, reputable pharmacies.

Make sure the online pharmacy is properly regulated. You can check this with your local state pharmacy board ([www.nabp.net/boards-of-pharmacy](http://www.nabp.net/boards-of-pharmacy)).



(1) From the [www.nabp.net/programs/consumer-protection/buying-medicine-online](http://www.nabp.net/programs/consumer-protection/buying-medicine-online)



## HOW CAN I TELL IF I HAVE RECEIVED A COUNTERFEIT MEDICINE?

The problem with counterfeit medicines is that sometimes it is really hard to tell the difference between the real thing and the counterfeit one. Here are some steps that can help you avoid taking counterfeit medicines.

### Check the packaging

Make sure you know what every aspect of your medicine's packaging looks like, including the blister pack or dispensing system (if it has one).

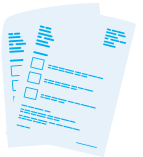


Every time you renew your prescription, compare these aspects against your previous pack. You are looking for even the tiniest difference in clarity of print, color, seals, etc.

Check that the medicine is within expiration date and that the dosage is correct.



Check that there is a patient information leaflet in the correct language.



### Check the medicine

Check carefully that it is consistent in color and texture with your previous prescription. Does it crumble? Is the color different from your normal medicine? Does it smell or taste different?



## COUNTERFEIT MEDICINES ARE A SERIOUS CONCERN

### WHAT IS A COUNTERFEIT MEDICINE?

According to WHO (World Health Organization), a counterfeit medicine is one which is deliberately and fraudulently mislabeled with respect to identity and/or source. Counterfeit can apply to both branded and generic products and counterfeit products may include products with the correct ingredients or with the wrong ingredients, without active ingredients, with insufficient active ingredients or with fake packaging.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Counterfeit medicines give rise to multiple risks because they:

- Endanger patient's health and safety.
- Create harm and tax caregivers and health system resources.

## A WORLDWIDE PROBLEM

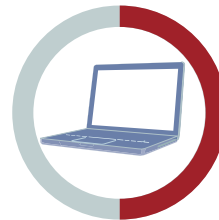
The problem of counterfeit drugs is known to exist in both developed and developing countries. Eliminating them is a considerable public health challenge.



Up to **10%** of medicines around the world are counterfeit. <sup>(1)</sup>

All pharmaceutical products are potentially targeted: innovative and generic drugs alike.

In over **50%** of cases, medicines purchased over the Internet from illegal sites that conceal their physical address have been found to be counterfeit. <sup>(2)</sup>



(1) The World Health Organization

(2) The World Health Organization. [www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs275/en](http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs275/en)

## IMPORTANT STEPS TO PROTECT YOURSELF

The best protection is always buying drugs only from known and authorized sources (healthcare provider or pharmacist...).

While traveling, **use only known and authorized sources.**



If you need regular treatment, **plan to take a sufficient quantity of medicine** for the entire trip, and bring a first aid kit adapted to your destination.

If you experience serious and unexpected adverse events, consult your healthcare professional (doctor, pharmacist,...) immediately and also contact the manufacturer.



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