

WPPF WORKING GROUP ON COUNTERFEIT DRUGS
13 JANUARY 2006, MANILA

- 1 A counterfeit medicine is one which is deliberately and fraudulently mislabeled with respect to identify and/or source.
- 2 Trade in counterfeit drugs is widespread and affects both developing and developed countries.
- 3 Counterfeit drugs are dangerous and can even result in death.
- 4 Consumers can take simple steps to protect themselves
 - beware of heavily discounted drugs
 - take precautions when buying medicines over the Internet. Check the websites for authenticity
 - Buy medicines only from licensed pharmacies
 - Retail dealings in fake medicines are reluctant to issue receipts. Insist on one
 - Check packaging for batch and lot numbers, manufacturing date, expiry date, manufacturing licence number and manufacturer's name and address. Be suspicious if any of this is missing.
 - Look at packages and pills for any abnormal appearance such as illegible labels, improper sealing, broken tablets etc
 - Immediately report to physicians and health authorities any doubts or concerns
 - Promptly report to your physician any reaction or lack of effectiveness after taking a medicine.

<http://www.wpro.who.int>