**MYTH:** ONLY BRANDED MEDICINES CAN BE COUNTERFEITED  
**FACT:** Counterfeiters do not discriminate. They target the most profitable drugs, such as branded medicines, antibiotics, tuberculosis medicines, and malaria medicines. Over 30% of countries have inadequate drug regulatory systems.*

**MYTH:** ONLY LIFESTYLE PILLS ARE FAKE  
**FACT:** The fastest growing numbers of fake medicines are prescription medicines, specifically antibiotics. Counterfeiters infiltrate the supply chain and pass themselves off as brand-name or generic medicines. These medicines are commonly used to treat life-threatening conditions.*

**MYTH:** WORST COMES TO WORSE, THE PILLS JUST WON'T WORK  
**FACT:** Fake medicines won't treat your illness and can worsen your condition, leading to further illnesses, disability or even death. They can also become resistant to genuine treatments, spreading the disease further and requiring more expensive care.*

**MYTH:** THERE ARE GOOD QUALITY FAKE MEDICINES  
**FACT:** Fake medicines lack quality control or been approved by qualified government agencies. They're impossible to trace. Counterfeits have not undergone any testing.*

**MYTH:** FAKE MEDICINES ARE EASY TO SPOT  
**FACT:** Counterfeiters make it their business to make it yours too! Join us at Fight the Fakes (www.fightthefakes.org) to speak up and spread the word about fake medicines.

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**MYTHS ABOUT FAKE MEDICINES**

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**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Speak with your doctor or pharmacist if you have unusual side-effects after taking your medicines.

If you use the medicine regularly, always pay attention to its taste and smell and note any abnormalities.

Contact your health authority or the medicine manufacturer if you notice an anomaly on the packaging, instructions or blister pack of your medicines.

Report suspicious cases to your drug regulatory authority.

Online or in person, always buy your medications from a licensed and certified pharmacy.

Only get prescription medicines from a source that requires a prescription.

A very low medicine price may be a warning of a fake medicine; stay on your guard and compare prices.

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*PSI
*WHO
*The Lancet