

The truth about fake medications

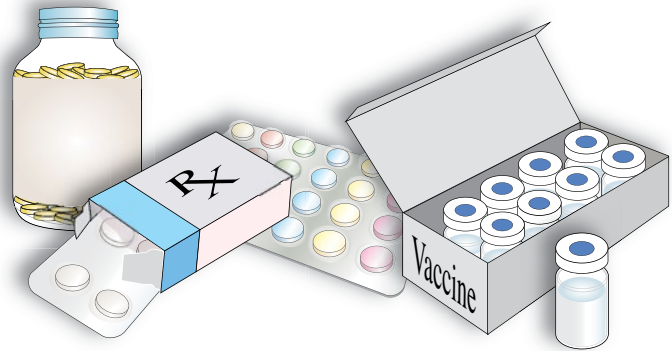


IAMAT
Go Confidently.

**Fake medications are dangerous.
They can make you ill or even cause death.**

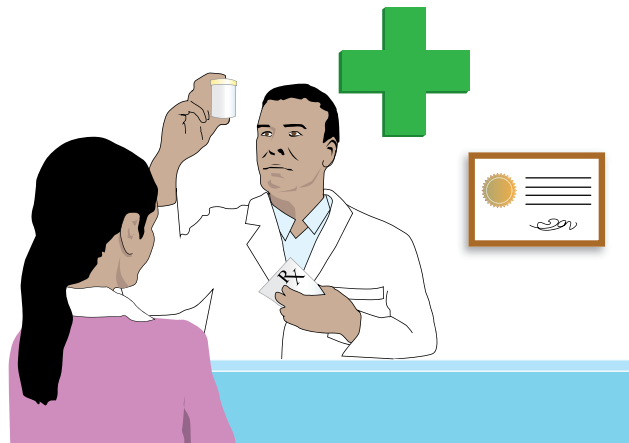
**You can't spot fake medications
from the packaging.**

Fake packaging looks very similar to the
real packaging.



**Buy medications from a licensed
pharmacy before your trip.**

If you have to buy medications in another
country, buy them from a reliable licensed
pharmacist.



**Never buy medications from stalls
at a street market.**

Fake medications are often sold at markets.



What are fake medications?

- Fake medications look like real medications but contain the wrong ingredient, wrong amount of active ingredient, no active ingredient, or toxic chemicals.
- There are no “good quality” fake medications. Fake medications have not been checked for quality. They may not work and can make you sicker.
- Any type of medication can be fake, including vaccines, pain relievers, antibiotics, and antimalarials.

Tips for travellers

Vaccines

- Get vaccinated before your trip.
- If you have to get vaccinated in another country, go to a reliable doctor. IAMAT can help you with this. Email info@iamat.org.
- If you need Yellow Fever vaccination for your trip, go to a registered Yellow Fever clinic.
- Be aware that fake Yellow Fever vaccination certificates are sold in many countries.

Antimalarial medication

- Buy antimalarial tablets from a licensed pharmacy before your trip. Pack enough for your whole trip.
- Fake antimalarial tablets are common worldwide and will not protect you against Malaria.

Travelling with medications

- Buy your medication before you travel. Pack enough for your whole trip and bring extra in case of an emergency.
- Carry medication in its original package or container with the patient information leaflet.
- If you take prescription medication, bring a letter from your doctor explaining why you need the medication in case you are asked by border agents. The letter should include the generic name, brand name, and the dosage of your medication.
- Pack liquid medication such as insulin in your carry-on bag. Liquid medication can freeze in checked luggage. Pack tablets in your carry-on and checked luggage in case one of your bags gets lost or stolen.

How to find a reliable pharmacy

If your medication runs out, gets lost or stolen, or you need to get a different medication while you travel, go to a reliable doctor or licensed pharmacist.

- You can often find a reliable healthcare practitioner at university hospitals.
- You may need a prescription for medications that you can buy without a prescription in Canada. Some medications that require a prescription in Canada may be available over-the-counter in other countries.

Reviewed by the South Riverdale Community Health Centre Plain Language Group.

With thanks to:

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IAMAT

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