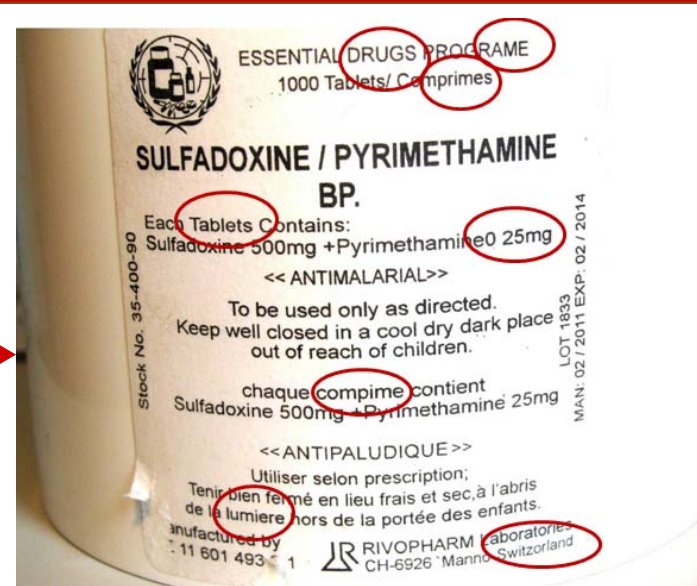


STOP COUNTERFEIT AND SUBSTANDARD MEDICINES IN HEALTH FACILITIES

Good morning, Pharmacist Sarah and Dr. Innocent. Yesterday, I came across a tin of wrongly labelled **SULPHADOXINE/PYRIMETHAMINE** tablets in ward 3 medicine cupboard. I wanted to bring this to your attention.



Thanks for your vigilance. I have just noticed the same issue with the stock at the pharmacy. I will immediately contact the manager of our local Minilab Partner, maybe he will ask that we send this batch to the laboratory for further testing.



I agree. From now on, we should adopt and **implement EPN guidelines on good pharmacy practice** and also **select and procure medicine products from authorized suppliers only**. We must avoid purchasing medicines from unregulated sources such as open market and internet.



That's right! In addition, I will write down a **CHECKLIST for receiving all incoming supplies and for routine visual inspection of medicines at the store and at all the service delivery points** i.e. dispensing area, wards, out patient department and injection room.

Those action steps are very good. **Visual Inspection** will help us to **identify any suspect medicine**, so that we don't dispense them to patients or supply them. We will also send a sample to our local **MINILAB PARTNER** for quality testing.



Wow! This discussion has been very helpful. The pharmacy department is fully supporting the plan. As the Pharmacist in-charge I will ensure all the measures discussed today are implemented. In summary, we have agreed to...



- 1) **IMPLEMENT EPN GUIDELINES ON GOOD PHARMACY PRACTICE IN OUR FACILITY;**
- 2) **SELECT ONLY QUALITY ASSURED MEDICINE PRODUCTS FROM PRE-QUALIFIED AUTHORIZED AND REPUTABLE SUPPLIERS AND MANUFACTURERS;**
- 3) **PUT IN PLACE A QUALITY ASSURANCE POLICY FOR CHECKING ALL INCOMING ORDERS;**
- 4) **INSPECT MEDICINES AT THE STORE AT A PREDETERMINED SCHEDULE AND AT SERVICE DELIVERY POINTS BEFORE ANY ADMINISTRATION OR DISPENSING TO PATIENTS; AND LASTLY,**
- 5) **CONTACT OUR LOCAL MINILAB PARTNER, IN CASE THE MEDICINE IS SUSPECTED TO BE COUNTERFEIT TO GET INSTRUCTIONS FOR FURTHER ACTION STEPS**

Very well summarized. Kindly proceed and **compile quality medicines assurance guidelines for our facility**. After that, we will need to arrange a training of all health staff with our local **MINILAB PARTNER**.



Colleagues, I am very happy that we have **developed an action plan**. Let us meet on **quarterly basis to monitor the progress**. Now it is time to take action!

