

VISUAL FEATURES OF A COUNTERFEIT/SUBSTANDARD MEDICINE

WHAT TO CHECK	VISUAL ANOMALY
PACKAGING	
Containers and Closures	Containers and closures do not protect the products from the external environment e.g. the container is not airtight (properly sealed)
Labels	Label on the carton does not match label on the container; label is illegible (unreadable) and/or easily erasable
Trade (Brand) Name	The trade/active ingredient's name is misspelled (misprinted) or the symbol ® or ™ is missing or does not follow the trade name
Manufacturer's Details	The manufacturer's name, logo is incorrect; Manufacturer's logo or hologram does not look authentic, full address of manufacturer's is missing on product pack
Medicine Strength (iu/ng/ug/mg/unit)	The strength – the amount of active ingredient per unit is not clearly labeled or not stated on the product pack For blister and foil strips packed products, the medicine strength is not indelibly embossed or imprinted on strips
Dosage Form (e.g. Tablets/Capsule)	The dosage form is not indicated on the container label Dosage form stated on the label does not match the actual dosage form of the medication
The Batch (or Lot) Number	The number system on the package differs from that of authentic manufacturer (compare if authentic sample is available) For blister and foil strip packed medicines, the batch number is not indelibly embossed or imprinted onto the strip
Dates of Manufacture and Expiry	The manufacture and/or the expiry date is not indicated on the label, or was obviously changed or manipulated For blister and foil strip packed medicines the expiry date is not indelibly embossed or imprinted onto the strip
Leaflet or Package Insert	Package insert is not printed on same color or quality paper as the original or does not look similar (compare if available) The ink used on the packaging insert is not smudge-proof (i.e. becomes messily smeared by rubbing it) Information on the package insert does not match with information on the product container
PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS/INTEGRITY	
Uniformity of Shape, Size, Colour and Texture	Same medicinal product (dosage form) from the same manufacturer not uniform in shape, size and color (compare the authentic product from the same manufacturer if available) Tablets that do not have uniform coating or are not uniformly polished , are powdered or are sticky Tablets and capsules with breaks, cracks, splits or pinholes Tablets and capsules with embedded surface spots or foreign particle contamination
Empty Capsules	Presence of empty capsules in the case of a sample of capsules
Smell, Colour and Taste	Tablets, capsules or powders for reconstitution that have peculiar odour, taste, moldy or color. Tablets/capsules that crumble with touch
Clarity of Intravenous Solution	Products meant for intravenous administration that are not clear after reconstitution (i.e. have suspended particles, or are cloudy)
Therapeutic Effect	When the expected therapeutic effect is not experienced
If, after conducting the above visual inspection, the medicine is suspected to be counterfeit/substandard, inform your local Minilab Partner immediately (see contact address below) to get instructions on how to send a sample of that product for quality testing and for further action steps	
COUNTERFEIT MEDICINES KILL! TAKE ACTION TO ENSURE HEALTH FACILITIES ARE FREE FROM SUCH HARMFUL PRODUCTS	

Stamp & Address of local Minilab Partner

Tel. No.:

Email:

