The fight against counterfeit and substandard medicines requires smart multi-agency partnerships to win.

The Ministry of Health, FBO facilities, health workers and the National Medicines Regulatory Authority should work collaboratively in combating circulation of counterfeits/substandard medicines.

As a health worker, you should play a watchdog role by always being keenly vigilant in your facility. Ensure you report any suspected medicine to your local Minilab partner.

STOP COUNTERFEIT AND SUBSTANDARD MEDICINES. SAVE LIVES!

DIFAEM-EPN Minilab Network Programme

This material was developed by the DIFAEM-EPN Minilab Network Programme in 2015
How can I identify counterfeit/substandard Medicines?

The medicine is suspect if:

- The label on the carton does not match label on the container
- The trade name is misspelled, or the symbol ® or TM is absent or does not follow trade name
- The manufacturer’s name or logo is illegible or incorrect and hologram does not look authentic
- The manufacturer’s address is missing or incomplete
- The amount of active ingredient per unit dose is not clearly labeled
- The manufacture/expiry date is not indicated on the label
- The tablets/capsules appear discoloured, mouldy and crumble
- The packaging varies in quality and the text differs in font and color from the genuine medicine
- The tablets/capsules have breaks, cracks, embedded surface spots, contamination, splits or pinholes

What can I do to stop counterfeit medicines?

You should:

1. Implement EPN Guidelines on Good Pharmacy Practice
2. Select and procure medicines from authorized suppliers only
3. Develop and implement a CHECKLIST for receiving all incoming supplies
4. Conduct regular VISUAL INSPECTION of medicines at the store and all end user units
5. If, after conducting a VISUAL INSPECTION, you suspect the medicine to be counterfeit, inform your local MINILAB PARTNER immediately using the contact address provided overleaf to get further instructions on how to send a sample for quality testing and further action steps