Counterfeit Medicines Toolkit

2. Examples of Counterfeit Medicines

Materials developed in collaboration with:

Pharmaceutical Security Institute

The Partnership for SAFEMEDICINES
Some Examples of Counterfeits (1)

Counterfeit Yectafer (left) found in Argentina. Testing by the local DRA found that the counterfeit product contained 343% of the total iron content declared.

*Picture courtesy of Astrazeneca, cannot be reproduced without written permission*

Counterfeit Celebrex (left) found in the US. Unlike authentic Celebrex, the counterfeit tablets contained talc in both the fill and capsule shell.

*Picture courtesy of Pfizer Inc., cannot be reproduced without written permission*
Some Examples of Counterfeits (2)

• Counterfeit Androcur (right) is one of the worst cases registered by the Brazilian Regulatory Agency in 1997-1998.

• 1,300,000 tablets were marketed in, at least, 6 regions of Brazil.

• Androcur is normally used for the treatment of prostate cancer; the counterfeit version was composed only of flour.

Source: ANVISA, Brazil
Some Examples of Less Sophisticated Counterfeits

Picture courtesy of GSK, cannot be reproduced without written permission
Examples of Manufacturing Facilities

This is how medicines should be produced…

Picture courtesy of Pfizer Inc. Cannot be reproduced without written permission
Examples of Manufacturing Facilities

“… The layout and design of premises must aim to (…) permit effective cleaning and maintenance in order to avoid cross-contamination, build-up of dust or dirt, and, in general, any adverse effect on the quality of products…” -- Extract from the WHO’s Good Manufacturing Practices for Pharmaceutical Products

Picture courtesy of PSI. Operation Cross Ocean, China.

… This is how counterfeits are produced