

No Fakes for Health's Sake

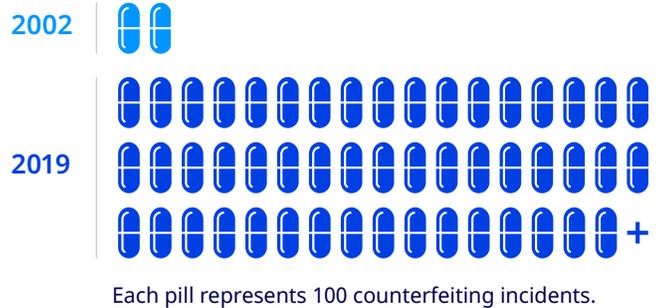


While disguised with stealth, counterfeit medicines can be a risk to your health.

COUNTERFEIT MEDICINES, AND THE UNREGULATED ONLINE PHARMACIES THAT SELL THEM, are spreading in number and have become harder to detect. Counterfeit medicines often do not contain all the ingredients they say they do, meaning patients may lose the therapeutic benefits they expect. Unlike counterfeit medicines, authentic medicines are reviewed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for safety, effectiveness and quality. Authentic medicines also undergo highly regulated and monitored quality manufacturing and distribution processes to help ensure they are as safe and effective as possible.

Pfizer is committed to addressing this threat to patient health by bringing partners across the health care spectrum together to stop counterfeit medicines before they enter our supply chain, by giving patients information they need to make the right purchasing choices, and supporting health care providers in our communities.

Incidents of counterfeiting have increased rapidly, from **196 in 2002 to more than 5,000 in 2019**. This issue affects **137 countries and 2,451 different medicines** across every therapeutic category.



Counterfeit pills have been **seized by law enforcement agencies in every U.S. state** in unprecedented quantities.



There are roughly **35,000 active online pharmacies** and **95 percent** of them operate illegally.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM COUNTERFEIT MEDICINES?



1. Before you fill your prescription through an online pharmacy, make sure you are purchasing from a legitimate site. Legitimate pharmacies require a valid prescription, have a licensed pharmacist, and a physical address, even if it is an online retailer. Find an accredited digital pharmacy through the [NABP](#).



2. Consult your doctor or pharmacist to help guide your pharmacy selection.



3. If you can't afford a medicine, Pfizer may be able to help. [Pfizer RxPathways](#) connects eligible patients to a range of assistance programs that offer insurance support, co-pay help, and medicines for free or at a savings.



4. Visit [Pfizer.com/Counterfeits](#) for information on how to make safe and smart choices when purchasing prescriptions.