

## Multi-Agency collaboration is key

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.

## MINILAB NETWORK PARTNERS

### GHANA

- ◆ NCHS, Accra

### CAMEROON

- ◆ OCASC, Yaounde
- ◆ CBC, Mutengene
- ◆ PCC, Buea

### DRC

- ◆ CEPAC, Bukavu
- ◆ CADIMEBU, Bunia

### NIGERIA

- ◆ CHAN—MEDI-PHARM, Jos

### KENYA

- ◆ MEDS, Nairobi

### TANZANIA

- ◆ KILIMATINDE Hosp., Manyoni

### INDIA

- ◆ CDMU, Odisha
- ◆ TEZPUR Hosp., Tezpur

### MALAWI

- ◆ NKHOMA Hosp., Nkhoma

### BURUNDI

- ◆ LIFE NET, Bujumbura

### UGANDA

- ◆ JMS, Kampala

### STAMP & CONTACT ADDRESS OF LOCAL MINILAB PARTNER

**Tel. No:**

**Email:**



**STOP  
COUNTERFEIT  
AND  
SUBSTANDARD  
MEDICINES.  
SAVE LIVES!**





DIFAEM-EPN Minilab Network Programme

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DIFAEM-EPN Minilab Network  
Programme in 2015






## Why are counterfeit medicines harmful?

They may:

-  Be toxic and cause harm to the patient
-  Cause Antimicrobial Resistance
-  Cause death
-  Prolong illness thereby reducing economic productivity



-  Erode patients' confidence in the Health Systems
-  Be costly to the patient and the healthcare system in the long run
-  Lead to waste of resources

## 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 in coming 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