

# Be safe, be aware of counterfeit drugs!

The growing use of counterfeit drugs is a global problem worth billions of dollars. Counterfeit drugs mimic the real medication but are potentially dangerous. They may contain no active ingredient, the wrong active ingredient, the wrong amount, or toxic contaminants.

## Before you buy...

- Check a pharmacy vendor's license with a state board of pharmacy
- Ensure that a valid prescription from a licensed healthcare provider *is required*
- Confirm the U.S. address and phone number and that a U.S. state-licensed pharmacist is on staff to answer questions
- Look for the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy's (NABP) Verified Internet Pharmacy Practice Sites (VIPPS™) Seal, ensuring satisfaction of state licensure requirements (these sites have a ".pharmacy" domain)

