

BNR Research Brief: Reading List on Counterfeit Medicine

- ♦ **Trade in Counterfeit Pharmaceutical Products** This report from the OECD and the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) provides updated figures on the scale, scope, and magnitude of trade in counterfeit pharmaceuticals. It analyzes a database of customs seizures of counterfeit goods, combined with interviews with trade and customs experts. It highlights the negative effects of counterfeit trade on the competitive advantage of rights holders and the significant health threats from fake medicines¹.
- ♦ **The Impact of Counterfeit Drugs in South and South-East Asia** This article discusses the dangers of counterfeit drugs, including their impact on microbial resistance and the profits and branding of pharmaceutical companies. It gives examples of incidents in Pakistan involving contaminated heart medication and cough syrup that resulted in multiple deaths².
- ♦ **Rethinking Counterfeit Medical Supply Chains: A Critical Review of the Literature** Published in June 2024, this article addresses the significant issue of counterfeit pharmaceutical products and medical devices. It explores the prevalence, consequences, and contributing factors, as well as responses from firms, governments, and intergovernmental organizations. It identifies major contributors to counterfeit products and details the health dangers, reduced confidence in healthcare systems, and financial losses associated with counterfeit drugs³.
- ♦ **Case Studies: How Unsafe Drugs Can Reach Patients** This document provides case studies illustrating breaches in the pharmaceutical supply chain. It describes instances where counterfeit drugs from foreign suppliers entered the U.S. market through illegal channels, leading to adverse reactions and deaths. It also highlights issues such as falsified labeling and substandard manufacturing practices⁴.
- ♦ **The Revolutionary Impact of Drug Track & Trace System** This article emphasizes the economic implications of counterfeit drugs and the importance of prevention. It notes that counterfeit drugs undermine the revenues of legitimate pharmaceutical companies, reduce incentives for research and development, and affect the broader economy through job losses and decreased investment in healthcare innovation⁵.
- ♦ **Monetary Incentives for Producing Counterfeit, Adulterated, and Substandard Pharmaceuticals** This article describes case studies and examples of pharmaceutical fraud, including the purchasing and distribution of products from unlicensed sources. It also

discusses instances of unlawful promotion of drugs and failure to disclose clinical safety data ⁶.

- ♦ **Counterfeit Medicine Detection Using Blockchain Technology** This article discusses the increasing complexity of drug counterfeiting and the severe risks it poses to public safety. It also estimates that around 10.5% of pharmaceuticals sold globally are counterfeit or of inferior quality and suggests blockchain as a solution to prevent counterfeit drugs from entering the supply chain ⁷.
- ♦ **Fighting the Global Counterfeit Medicines Challenge: A Consumer Perspective** This article highlights the dire long-term health consequences of fake medicines, such as antimicrobial resistance, organ failure, and drug-resistant infections. It emphasizes that counterfeit medicines are a significant public health threat and a barrier to equitable access to health ⁸.
- ♦ **The Economic Impact of Counterfeit Drugs on the Pharmaceutical Industry** This article details how counterfeit drugs lead to revenue erosion, reduce investment in research and development, damage brand reputations, and increase regulatory compliance costs for pharmaceutical companies ⁹.
- ♦ **The Economic Impact of Counterfeit Healthcare Products** This article underscores the significant economic repercussions of counterfeit healthcare products, including loss of revenue for legitimate manufacturers, increased healthcare costs, and the strain on healthcare systems ¹⁰.
- ♦ **Counterfeit Medicines Volume I Policy, Economics and Countermeasures** This book offers a detailed account of the history, policy and law, and financial and economic aspects of pharmaceutical product counterfeiting. It also discusses countermeasures available to combat this issue ¹¹.
- ♦ **Strategies for Preventing and Mitigating Counterfeit Medication From Entering the Pharmaceutical Supply Chain** This qualitative study explores strategies that brand protection managers use to mitigate financial losses associated with counterfeit medications ¹².

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https://www.oecd.org/content/dam/oecd/en/publications/reports/2020/03/trade-in-counterfeit-pharmaceutical-products_9404e892/a7c7e054-en.pdf

<https://www.europeanpharmaceuticalreview.com/article/92194/the-impact-of-counterfeit-drugs-in-south-and-south-east-asia/>

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11212481/>

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<https://www.tigahealth.com/the-revolutionary-impact-of-pharmaceutical-track-trace-system/>

https://uknowledge.uky.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1170&context=ps_facpub

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31

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<https://truemedinc.com/blog/the-economic-impact-of-counterfeit-healthcare-products/>

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