

The Partnership for Safe Medicines is a coalition of more than 50 patient, physician, pharmacist, university, industry and other professional organizations committed to the safety of prescription drugs and protecting consumers against unapproved, counterfeit, substandard, mishandled or otherwise unsafe medicines.

Learn more about the dangers of contraband and counterfeit drugs at www.safemedicines.org or contact us at info@safemedicines.org.

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How to Start a Partnership for Safe Medicines

1. Find Partners

Potential partners in the fight against counterfeit medicines include non-governmental organizations (NGOs), governmental departments and agencies, and for-profit companies who are committed to the safety of prescription drugs and protecting consumers from counterfeit drugs. Partners may come from universities, pharmacists and other healthcare professional organizations, as well as from the business and pharmaceutical sectors.

2. Designate a Main Contact

One of the partner organizations needs to take the lead and designate a staff person to serve as your partnership's executive direct and coordinate activities. This person can act as a spokesperson if needed, or you can recruit spokespersons from among the partners.

3. Collect Existing Information on Safe Medicines

Survey your partners to see if they have already created materials about counterfeit medicines, Internet safety problems or related issues. Put these in an electronic archive that you can use in step 4.

4. Create a Web site on Safe Medicines

You can use the Internet to create a Web site where you can post partners' existing materials (step 3), new materials created by your partnership, and news stories relevant to the Partners. If you want to use a page from safemedicines.org, contact the U.S. Partnership at info@safemedicines.org.

5. Join the SafeMeds Alert System

The SafeMeds Alert System is a free email service offered by the U.S. Partnership that sends official alerts from the FDA and other government agencies around the world to anyone—private citizens, public groups, corporations, healthcare practitioners, associations—when specific counterfeit drug incidents are detected. Individuals can enroll online at www.safemedicines.org or you can send a list of email addresses to info@safemedicines.org.

6. Expand the SafeMeds Alert System

Contact your local drug regulatory authority or relevant Health Ministry to see if it would participate in the SafeMeds Alert System. Ask it to send an email to U.S. Partnership at info@safemedicines.org when specific counterfeit drug incidents occur and the U.S. Partnership will forward them through the SafeMeds Alert System.

7. Start a Local Weekly News Update

Every week, the U.S. Partnership sends free weekly email that provides readers with a weekly roundup of what's happening around the world regarding counterfeit drugs, as well as the latest blog entry from the its experts. For an example of a current newsletter, contact the U.S. executive director at info@safemedicines.org.

8. Develop Educational Materials

Hold meetings with your partners to develop appropriate educational materials. You can use existing Partnership materials as templates: especially the "S.A.F.E. D.R.U.G." checklist for patients, the "L.E.A.D.E.R.'s Guide for Pharmacists" and the "Principles for Drug Safety" doctrine.