

How Do You Test Whether a Medication is Legitimate?

Calls to legalize drug importation are not new and often give lip service to safety testing. Here's what is really involved in testing medication.

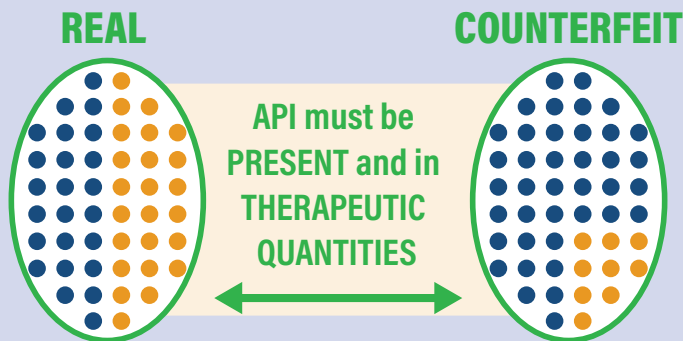
4 TESTS that ESTABLISH PILL QUALITY:



To know if a pill is REAL or FAKE, it must be tested in a laboratory.



ASSAY Confirms that a pill has the stated amount of ACTIVE PHARMACEUTICAL INGREDIENT (API).

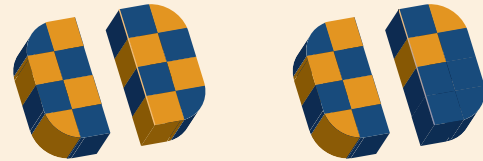


CONTENT UNIFORMITY

Is the API **CONSISTENT** across the batch?



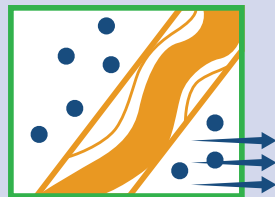
Is the medicine **EVENLY DISTRIBUTED** if the pill is broken in half?



DISSOLUTION RATE



REAL: able to dissolve into a patient's bloodstream.



COUNTERFEIT: DOESN'T DISSOLVE, gets flushed out of the patient's body.



If medicine dissolves **TOO QUICKLY** or **TOO SLOWLY**, the patient may not be able to receive the full therapeutic effect.

PURITY Contaminants can harm or kill patients.



Is the medication free of bacteria
lead
mercury
mold
PCBs...?

Across 24 different prescription medicines, the average cost to test a single dose is \$2,750. However, ensuring a batch of 100 pills is safe requires testing at least 22 pills.

To learn more about this topic, read, "*Dollars and Sense: An Examination of the Cost Effectiveness of Pharmaceutical Importation*" by Dr. Kristina M. L. Acri née Lybecker at <http://safedr.org/DrAcri>.