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# RISKS to WOMEN'S HEALTH from COUNTERFEIT MEDICINES

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## DISFIGURATION

has been caused by counterfeit Botox containing inauthentic ingredients such as cooking oil, which caused abscesses, scarring and kidney failure and death.

A New Zealand woman was hospitalized for 6 weeks after being injected with an unknown substance by a friend who bought fake Botox online.

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## UTERINE INFECTION

is the likely result of counterfeit IUDs. Fake IUDs have exposed women to unsanitary items that could cause infection, complications and unwanted pregnancy. Since 2009, 39 individuals in 7 states have been prosecuted for the purchase or sale of non-FDA approved IUDs.

"Unapproved products bring a lot of unknowns into the equation," said FDA compliance officer Kathleen Anderson. "An internet ad may claim to sell IUDs made in Canada, but there's no way to be sure. They might have been made anywhere in the world and in unsanitary or undesirable conditions."

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## DIABETIC SHOCK AND COMA

can result from counterfeit insulin pen needles, fake diabetes test strips and falsified diabetes medication. Incidents of these have all been found by government agencies. The Mayo Clinic lists diabetes as one of the top killers of women.

Resold, expired or counterfeit test strips are likely to give incorrect readings and cause treatment failure. Watch out for old test strips sold online.

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## MALARIA

is particularly deadly to pregnant mothers and their unborn children. While malaria is curable with authentic artemisinin combination therapies, fake anti-malarial drugs have become a crisis in Southeast Asia.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, malaria is at risk to re-emerge in the U.S., especially in the southern states. Counterfeit anti-malarial drugs have been found in Africa, Southeast Asia, East Asia and the Solomon Islands.

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## CHRONIC LOWER RESPIRATORY DISEASE

is one of the top killers of women, according to the Mayo Clinic. Counterfeit antibiotics and flu vaccines can turn curable illnesses into chronic conditions like bronchitis and emphysema.

Worldwide, vaccines have been subject to counterfeiting including the inoculation of 60,000 Nigerians with fake meningitis vaccines, and 1,400 Texans injected with fake flu vaccines.

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## BREAST, LUNG, SKIN and COLORECTAL CANCER

are the top cancers killing women, according to the Mayo Clinic. Fake cancer drugs have been found in three separate incidents in the U.S. in the past two years.

More than 100 cancer clinics in 29 states were warned about purchasing fake cancer drugs by the FDA in 2012 alone.

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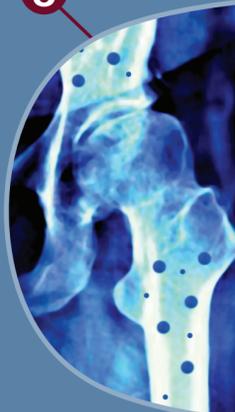


## POST-PARTUM HEMORRHAGE

the leading cause of maternal mortality according to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, is treatable with misoprostol—unless it's fake. Fake misoprostol, available worldwide, could cost a mother's life before the mistake is discovered.

"Each year, 45 million women deliver without a skilled attendant, a situation in which the greatest number of maternal deaths occurs," say World Health Organization experts, adding that "women can safely self-administer misoprostol orally to effectively prevent postpartum hemorrhage."

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## OSTEOPOROSIS

is treated with risedronate. Patients risked their health by purchasing counterfeit risedronate tablets from an unlicensed online pharmacy. FDA agents intercepted and tested purchases, finding them to "not contain the proper amount of active ingredients."

Unlicensed online pharmacy operators know purchasing from them is illegal, and have exploited this by posing as federal agents and demanding that customers send thousands of dollars in 'fines' to the Dominican Republic via Western Union.

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## HEART DISEASE

is the top killer of women. Treatments to prevent heart disease like smoking cessation aids, weight loss medication and statins are all available in counterfeit form online. Some fakes contained dangerous substitute ingredients that masked symptoms and added the possibility of life-threatening side effects, including stroke.

Buying medication from unlicensed online sources is a great way to get a dangerous counterfeit containing controlled substances like sibutramine, which can cause high blood pressure, seizures, tachycardia, palpitations, heart attack or stroke.



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