

COUNTERFEITS by the Numbers

\$250mm of counterfeit
Gilead Sciences HIV medicine allegedly
sold to pharmacies across the U.S.

50x as many counterfeit pills
containing fentanyl were seized in
2021 as they were in 2018 by U.S. law
enforcement.

2 different brand-name counterfeit
blood thinners were sold to American
tourists in 2022 by Mexican pharmacies.
Mexican authorities also issued an alert
about one of these counterfeits being
found within its drug supply chain.

93% of online pharmacies
selling a particular leukemia medication
were not licensed to sell to U.S. patients,
found researchers at the University of
North Carolina.

<https://safedr.org/publications>

5 WAYS to SAVE MONEY and STAY SAFE from COUNTERFEIT DRUGS

1 Use a free prescription discount program.

NeedyMeds has a free prescription discount card and there is also an app version for iPhone or Android smartphones. Their card is accepted at over 65,000 pharmacies in the U.S. and **savings can be as much as 80 percent!**



2 Generics are the fastest way to lower your prescription costs.

Generic drugs have the same effectiveness, strength, purity, safety, and active ingredients as brand-name drugs. They are virtually identical to brand-name drugs but cost **about 85% less.**



3 Talk with your pharmacist.

Your pharmacist will know if it's cheaper to use your insurance/Medicare or pay cash. They know about discount cards and other techniques that might reduce the cost. If you pay cash, shop around town because cash prices vary a lot. If you find better prices elsewhere, try and keep all your prescriptions at one pharmacy for your medical safety.



4 Find out about assistance programs.

Many drug companies offer qualifying patients access to low-cost or free medications. Check with your provider about available support. Contact these patient-assistance programs online at www.needymeds.org, www.rxoutreach.org, and medicineassistancetool.org.



5 Buy medicines only at .pharmacy websites.

If you decide to buy online, **only purchase from online pharmacies whose websites end in .pharmacy.** Go to <https://www.safe.pharmacy> to see the list. Be sure to inform your local pharmacist of all the medications you take to watch for drug interactions.

