DRUG REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF PAKISTAN
Division of Quality Assurance and Laboratory Testing

RAPID ALERT

DRAP ALERT No: Nº I/S/08-25-56

CRACKDOWN AGAINST FALSIFIED / SPURIOUS DRUGS

Date: 20th August , 2025

Target Audience:

- Regulatory Field Force of DRAP and Provincial Drug Control departments.
- Healthcare Professionals
- Consumers

Problem Statement:

Drug testing Laboratories from Provinces have informed the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan that the samples of below mentioned products have been declared ***'Spurious'***. The details of reports are as under:

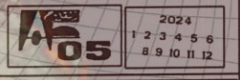
S#	Product Name	Batch No.	Purported Manufacturer	Remarks
1.	**Brexin Tablet** Each tablet contains: Piroxicam-β-Cyclodextrine (Lyophilized) e.q to Piroxicam……20mg	1192087	Purported to be manufactured under license of Chiesi Farmaceutici S.P.A., PARMA-ITALY **Marketed by:** Chiesi Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd., Lahore.	Drug Testing Laboratory, Rawalpindi Punjab declared the purported drug product as **'Spurious'** as defined under clause (i) of subsection (z-b) of Section 3 of the Drugs Act, 1976.
2.	**Tablet Zetro 500mg** (Reg. # 053120) Each film coated tablet contains: Azithromycin (as dihydrate) …….500 mg	F18031	Purported to be manufactured under **M/s Getz Pharma (Private) Limited.** Plot # 01, Sector 25, Korangi Industrial Area, Karachi (DML# 000933).	Drug Testing Laboratory, Rawalpindi declared the purported drug product as **'Spurious'** as defined under clause (i) of sub-section (z-b) of Section 3 of the Drugs Act, 1976.
3.	**Tablet Augmentin 625mg** Each film coated tablet contains: Amoxicillin (as trihydrate) …… 500 mg. Clavulanic Acid (as potassium salt) …... 125mg.	7F4W	Purported to be manufactured under **M/s GlaxoSmithKline Pakistan Limited,** F/268, S.I.T.E. Karachi (DML# 000233).	Drug Testing Laboratory, Multan declared the purported drug product as **'Spurious'** as defined under clause (i) & (ii) of sub-section (z-b) of Section 3 of the Drugs Act, 1976.

DRAP, Islamabad + 92 051 9255969 gsms@dra.gov.pk

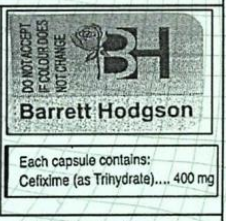
4.	**Tablet TONOFLEX-P** Each Film Coated Tablet Contains: Tramadol HCl …… 37.5 mg Paracetamol …….. 325 mg	KFM145	Purported to be manufactured under **M/s Sami Pharmaceuticals (Pvt.) Ltd.** F-95, S.I.T.E. Karachi (DML# 000072).	Drug Testing Laboratory, Rawalpindi declared the purported drug product as **'Spurious'** as defined under clause (i) & (ii) of sub-section (z-b) of Section 3 of the Drugs Act, 1976.
5.	**Tablet EFASTON** Each film coated tablet contains Dydrogesterone …... 10 mg	41160	Purported to be manufactured under **M/s Lahore Chemical & Pharmaceutical Works (Private) Limited.** 137- Ferozepur Road, Lahore (DML# 000064).	Drug Testing Laboratory Rawalpindi declared the purported drug product as **'Spurious'** as defined under clause (i) & (ii) of sub-section (z-b) of Section 3 of the Drugs Act, 1976.
6.	**Capsule Gabica 300 mg** Each Capsule contains: Pregabalin …….. 300 mg	403C27	Purported to be manufactured under **M/s Getz Pharma (Private) Limited.** 29-30/27 Korangi Industrial Area, Karachi (DML# 000284) ***(recovered from Peddler / Hawker)***	Drug testing Laboratory Multan declared the purported drug product as **'Spurious'** as defined under clause (i) & (ii) of sub-section (z-b) of Section 3 of the Drugs Act, 1976.
7.	**Imcomox Capsule** Each Capsule Contains: Amoxycillin trihydrate eq. to Amoxycillin (U.S.P) …. 500mg	08	Purported to be manufactured under **M/s IMCO Pharmaceutical Labs**. 73- Industiral Estate, Hayatabad, Peshawar. (DML # 000317)	Drug Testing Laboratory, Faisalabad declared the purported drug product as **'Spurious'** as defined under clause (i) & (ii) of sub-section (z-b) of Section 3 of the Drugs Act, 1976.

8.	**Omnidol NU Tablet** Each uncoated tablet contains: Paracetamol …….500mg Caffeine …….65 mg	1220	Purported to be manufactured under **M/s Olive Laboratories.** Plot No.52-S-6 National Industrial Zone Rawat Rawalpindi. (000524)	Drug Water and Food Testing Laboratory Gilgit Baltistan declared the purported drug product as under: - For assay of caffeine, **'Spurious'** as defined under clause (i) of sub-section (z-b) of Section 3 of the Drugs Act, 1976 & For assay of Paracetamol, **'Substandard'** as defined under sub-section (zz) of Section 3 of the Drugs Act, 1976.
9.	**CAPSULE CEFSPAN 400 mg** Each capsule contains: Cefixime……...400mg	F0580	Purported to be manufactured under **M/s Barrett Hodgson Pakistan (Pvt) Ltd.** F/423 SITE Karachi. (000457)	Drug Testing Laboratory Rawalpindi declared the purported drug product as **'Spurious'** as defined under clause (i) & (ii) of sub-section (z-b) of Section 3 of the Drugs Act, 1976.
10.	**CAPSULE ICON 100 mg** Each capsule contains: Itraconazole pellets eq. To itraconazole 100 mg	241694	Purported to be manufactured under **M/s Ferozsons Laboratories Ltd.** Amangarh Nowshera (DML #000038)	Drug Testing Laboratory Rawalpindi declared the purported drug product as **'Spurious'** as defined under clause (i) & (ii) of sub-section (z-b) of Section 3 of the Drugs Act, 1976.
11.	**Tablet NOVIDAT** Each film coated tablet contains: Ciprofloxacin Hydrochloride eq. to Ciprofloxacin 500mg	FIM147	Purported to be manufactured under **M/s Sami Pharmaceuticals (Pvt) Ltd.** F-95 Off Hub River Road, SITE Karachi. (DML # 000072)	Drug Testing Laboratory Rawalpindi declared the purported drug product as **'Spurious'** as defined under clause (i) & (ii) of sub-section (z-b) of Section 3 of the Drugs Act, 1976.

"Identification Guide: Original vs Falsified Packaging for Tablet NOVIDAT"

Sample Received from Drug Inspector Sargodha (Batch No. FIM147)	QC retention sample received from M/S Sami Pharmaceuticals (Pvt.) Ltd. (Batch No. FIM147)
Tablets coating and engraving is **rough** as compared to QC retention sample. 	Tablets coating and engraving is **smooth.** 
Hologram on the unit carton **does not change color** when rotated at different angles. 	**Hologram** on the unit carton **changes color** when rotated at different angles. 
Embossing pattern & texture on unit carton is different as compared to QC retention sample & does not reveal the word NOVIDAT **clearly** 	**Embossing** pattern & texture on unit carton reveals the word NOVIDAT clearly. 
Color pattern design on the unit carton is **not symmetrically** aligned. 	**Color pattern design** on the unit carton is **symmetrically** aligned. 
Dust flaps of unit carton are printed with following. 	**Dust** flaps of unit carton are printed with following. 
Printing on blister is not symmetrical and not legible as compared to QC retention sample. 	Printing on blister is **symmetrical and legible.** 
Leaflet contain differences in **content** and is **not legible.**	Leaflet is properly printed and is **legible.**
Font (Style & Size) used in printing of Batch No, Mfg, Exp & MRP, Rs is not in congruence as compared to QC	

"Identification Guide: Original vs Falsified Packaging for Cefspan"

Sample Received from Drug Inspector Sargodha (Batch No. F0580)	QC retention sample received from M/S Barrett Hodgson (Pvt) Ltd. (Batch No. F0580)
Capsule shells are **red** in color printed with white colored printing on them which is **not legible.** 	Capsule shells are **reddish orange** in color with white colored **legible** printing of **CEFSPAN ® 400mg** on **cap** & **Barrett Hodgson** on **body.** 
White colored **powder** is filled in the capsule shells. 	Light yellow colored **granular powder** is filled in the capsule shells. 
Desiccant pouch is not printed with company's logo as compared to QC retention sample. 	**Desiccant pouch** is printed with **company's logo.** 
Bottle cap liner is different as compared to QC retention sample. 	**Bottle cap liner** is conical cup made up of transparent **plastic** material. 
Outer carton & label has following differences	
1) On hologram seal, it is mentioned "DO NOT ACCEPT IF COLOUR DOES NOT **SHIFT**" 2) Hologram seal **color does not change.** 3) Composition is written as **Each Capsule contains: Cefixime….400mg** followed by **full stop.** 	1) On hologram seal, it is mentioned "DO NOT ACCEPT IF COLOUR DOES NOT **CHANGE**" 2) Hologram seal **changes color** & company's logo become visible. 3) Composition is written as **Each Capsule contains: Cefixime (as Trihydrate)….400mg** 
Font (Style & Size) is not in congruence and **Leaflet** is not legible as compared to QC retention sample received from the manufacturer.	

"Images of the Suspected Falsified Product (Imcomox Capsule)"

Risk Statement:

All the above mentioned purported drug products are confirmed as **falsified/spurious,** as its packaging falsely claims that it was manufactured by a licensed pharmaceutical company—whereas it was not. Laboratory testing has revealed that the product contains **no active pharmaceutical ingredient**, resulting in **complete lack of therapeutic effect**. Such falsification poses a **serious risk to public health**, potentially leading to **treatment failure**, **disease progression**, and even **life-threatening outcomes**, particularly for patients relying on these medications for critical care. The public is strongly advised **not to use these purported drug products** and to report any suspicious or unverified medicines to DRAP immediately.

Action Initiated: -

The Regulatory Field Force of DRAP and Provincial Drug Control Departments has been directed to conduct surveillance activities throughout the supply chain to confiscate the falsified products.

Advice for Healthcare Professionals: -

DRAP requests healthcare professionals to have increased vigilance within the supply chains of institutions/pharmacies/healthcare facilities likely to be affected by above mentioned product. Any adverse events or quality problems experienced with the use of these products should be reported to National or Provincial pharmacovigilance centers using Adverse Event Reporting Form or online through this link. Further information on reporting problems to DRAP is available on this link.

Advice for Consumers:

Consumers should not use these products and should contact their physician or healthcare provider(s) if they have experienced any problem related to taking or using the above mentioned products and should report the incident to the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan / National Pharmacovigilance Centre. All therapeutic goods must be obtained from licensed pharmacies and other authorized/licensed retail outlets. The authenticity and condition of products should be carefully checked. Seek advice from your pharmacists or other healthcare professionals in case of any doubt.