



## Counterfeit Prescription Drugs

### Tips to Avoiding Counterfeit Prescription Drugs

- Be mindful of appearance. Closely examine the packaging and lot numbers of prescription drugs and be alert of any changes from one prescription to the next.
- Consult your pharmacist or physician if your prescription drug looks suspicious.
- Alert your pharmacist and physician immediately if your medication causes adverse side effects or if your condition does not improve.
- Use caution when purchasing drugs on the Internet. Do not purchase medications from unlicensed online distributors or those who sell medications without a prescription. Reputable online pharmacies will have a seal of approval called the Verified Internet Pharmacy Practice Site (VIPPS), provided by the Association of Boards of Pharmacy in the United States.
- Product promotions or cost reductions and other "special deals" may be associated with counterfeit product promotion.



### Some Tips to Avoiding Fraudulent "Anti-Aging" Products

- If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Watch out for "Secret Formulas" or "Breakthroughs."
- Don't be afraid to ask questions about the product. Find out exactly what it should do for you and what it should not.
- Research a product thoroughly before buying it. Call the Better Business Bureau to find out if other people have complained about the product.
- Be wary of products that purport to cure a wide variety of illnesses (particularly serious ones) that don't appear to be related.
- Testimonials and/or celebrity endorsements are often misleading.
- Be very careful of products that are marketed as having no side effects.
- Products that are advertised as making visits to a physician unnecessary should be questioned.
- Always consult your doctor before taking any dietary or nutritional supplement.

Source: *Federal Bureau of Investigation*  
<http://www.fbi.gov/majcases/fraud/seniorsfam.htm>