



Beware of counterfeits



How can I protect myself against counterfeit products?

Patients should only purchase medicines from suppliers whom they would trust with their health!

Patients should **not** trust suppliers who break the law, for example,

- by marketing drug products in contravention of legal regulations, in particular outside of the legal retail channels,
- by marketing purported generic products that infringe intellectual property rights (for example, marketing generic vardenafil that is allegedly qualitatively comparable with Levitra® in Europe).

For this reason:

- **Avoid** purchasing pharmacy-only medicinal products from private individuals, whether via the Internet, from acquaintances who bring back apparently genuine products from abroad or in establishments such as discos, body-building studios or the red light district.
- **Avoid** offers for prescription-only drug products that circumvent the regulations on presentation of a doctor's prescription.
- **Avoid** products in packaging that is incomplete or not correctly configured for retail in the UK or Ireland. If in doubt, consult your physician or pharmacist.
- Check the reputation of **Internet pharmacies** before purchasing drug products online.
- Prepare any medication you may need on vacation before **trips abroad**.