



Philippine College of Physicians

INTERNAL MEDICINE / Doctors for Adults

"A Dynamic Community of Ethical and Compassionate Internists,
Committed to Excellence, Integrity and Service above Gain"



Physicians Caring
for the Philippines

A specialty division of the Philippine
Medical Association (PMA)

Member Society, International
Society of Internal Medicine (ISIM)
and the ASEAN Federation of
Internal Medicine (AFIM)

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Immediate Past President

15 Subspecialty Societies

- Philippine College of Chest Physicians
- Philippine Heart Association
- Philippine Rheumatology Association
- Philippine Society of Allergology,
Asthma and Immunology
- Philippine Society of Endocrinology
and Metabolism
- Philippine Society of Gastroenterology
- Philippine Society of Hematology
and Blood Transfusion
- Philippine Society of Medical Oncology
- Philippine Society for Microbiology
and Infectious Diseases
- Philippine Society of Nephrology
- Philippine Society of Geriatric Medicine
- Diabetes Philippines
- Philippine Society of Nuclear Medicine
- Philippine Neurological Association
- Philippine Dermatological Society

13 Chapters

- Bicol
- Central Luzon
- Northern Luzon
- Northeastern Luzon
- Southern Luzon
- Central Visayas
- Eastern Visayas
- Western Visayas Negros Occidental
- Western Visayas Panay
- Negros Oriental
- Northern Mindanao
- Southern Mindanao
- Western Mindanao

PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS ADVISORY ON FAKE FLU VACCINES

The Philippine College of Physicians through its Committee on Advocacy, Subcommittee on Pharmacovigilance, would like to warn its members and the public regarding the existence of counterfeit influenza vaccines. This is in the light of reports this last week of July of the seizure of P4 million worth of fake flu vaccines filled with distilled water and the arrest of a trader who was a former medical representative, during an operation conducted by operatives of the NBI Anti-Fraud and Computer Crimes Division (AFCCD) in San Pedro, Laguna. According to officials of the Department of Health, these reports may just be the tip of the iceberg as they are now also receiving reports of some groups going around small offices to peddle supposedly approved flu vaccines at "attractive" prices.

The PCP members and the public are therefore cautioned to obtain vaccines only from reputable and BFAD accredited suppliers. In a public advisory published in the major newspapers last July 28, the BFAD warns all drugstore owners and/or their pharmacists to exercise extra diligence in buying this vaccine and any other drugs. Acting BFAD Director Nazarita Tacandong wrote, "they should buy only from sources duly licensed by BFAD and always demand sales invoices or receipts from their sources indicating therein the name of the drugs and medicines purchased and their respective lot numbers and expiry dates. Refusal of the source to issue and/or indicate the aforementioned information should give rise to suspicion and must be reported immediately to BFAD."

Flu vaccines are available either as pre-filled syringes or vials. It may be difficult to distinguish the fake vaccines from the authentic vaccines but it may be possible to spot both the subtle and obvious differences. To ensure the integrity of the vaccines, check the following:

1. For pre-filled syringes, the vaccines must be in a sealed packaging (carton) containing the manufacturer label and lot number. The seal is usually also printed with the name of the company and not just an ordinary tape.
2. If the vaccine is in vials, ensure that the vials are the original containers and the metal crimping seal is intact and unopened.
3. Check the label as some fake vaccines have labels that were printed with ordinary desktop printers that easily blot when wet or which are not as clear as the original labels.



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