Tamiflu: Counterfeit Product Sold on Internet

U.S. Food & Drug Administration

Audience: Consumers, Pharmacists

Issue: FDA notified consumers and healthcare professionals about a potentially harmful product represented as Ã¢??Generic TamifluÃ¢?□ sold over the Internet. FDA tests revealed that the fraudulent product does not contain TamifluÃ¢??s active ingredient, oseltamivir, but cloxacillin, an ingredient in the same class of antibiotics as penicillin. Patients who are allergic to penicillin products are at risk of experiencing similar reactions from cloxacillin. This includes a sudden, potentially life-threatening reaction called anaphylaxis, with symptoms that include difficulty breathing, chest tightness, swelling of the throat or tongue, hives, dizziness, loss of consciousness, or a rapid or weak pulse.

Background: The FDA bought the fraudulent Ã¢??Generic TamifluÃ¢?□ without a prescription from a website claiming to be an online drugstore that is no longer operational. The fraudulent version is likely to be found for sale on other websites, however. Legitimate internet pharmacies are licensed by the appropriate U.S. Board of Pharmacy and follow the applicable laws and regulations. Consumers can also be confident that the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy Verified Internet Pharmacy Sites Seal, also known as VIPPS Seal, gives a seal of approval to pharmacy sites that apply and meet state licensure requirements. Legitimate pharmacies that carry the VIPPS seal are listed at www.vipps.info [1] [2]

Recommendation: The FDA advises anyone possessing or encountering any of these fraudulent Tamiflu drugs not to use them and to contact the FDA's Office of Criminal Investigations by visiting the OCI website (http://www.fda.gov/OCI [3]).

Consumers are encouraged to report adverse events or side effects related to the use of these products to the FDA's MedWatch Safety Information and Adverse Event Reporting Program:

- Online: www.fda.gov/MedWatch/report.htm [4]
- Phone: 1-800-332-1088
- Mail: return the postage-paid FDA form 3500, which may be downloaded from the MedWatch "Download Forms [5]" page, to address on the pre-addressed form

- Fax: 1-800-FDA-0178

[06/17/2010 - News Release [6] - FDA]

SOURCE [7]

Source URL (retrieved on *04/18/2015 - 7:46pm*):
http://www.mdtmag.com/news/2010/06/tamiflu-counterfeit-product-sold-internet

Links:
[1] http://www.vipps.info/
[2] http://www.fda.gov/AboutFDA/AboutThisWebsite/WebsitePolicies/Disclaimers/default.htm
[3] http://www.fda.gov/ICECI/CriminalInvestigations/ucm2005410.htm
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