

#### Journal Article

- Hailu Tadeg
- Yemane Berhane

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#### Journal tags:

[HIV & AIDS](#) [1], [malaria](#) [2], [tuberculosis](#) [3], [antimicrobials](#) [4], [quality assurance](#) [5], [counterfeit medicines](#) [6]

**Objective:** The objective of this review is to produce evidence on the prevalence and trends in the availability of substandard and counterfeit antimicrobials in the global market and its consequences on key public health interventions in developing countries.

**Methods:** Review of various literatures collected through the internet and other sources. Literature search using PubMed and Medline databases and Google search engine was conducted to identify related publications on the subject. Relevant published and unpublished literature was also consulted as additional source of information.

**Results:** During the past few decades, the trade of substandard and counterfeit medicines has increased substantially. Past experiences indicate that almost any kind of medicine can be counterfeited. In developing countries, primary targets are those antimicrobials that are commonly used in the treatment of life-threatening conditions including malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. The findings in this review support the strong contention that substandard and counterfeit antimicrobials are available in the developing world in very high proportions. This is becoming one of the major causes of treatment failures leading to excessive mortality and morbidity. Moreover, it is implicated for contributing to the development of drug resistant organisms in many infectious diseases of public health significance such as malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS.

**Conclusion:** If trends in the prevalence of counterfeit/substandard drugs continue at the current scale, there is a huge threat to interventions underway on major killer diseases in the developing world. So, public health interventions in developing countries should include quality control of antimicrobials as an integral part of program implementation. The national drug regulatory authorities in those countries should also be strengthened to enhance their capacity in enforcing regulations pertaining the registration, production, distribution and use of antimicrobial drugs.

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**Source URL:** <http://www.msh.org/resources/substandard-and-counterfeit-antimicrobials-recent-trends-and-implications-to-key-public?page=11>

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