

Ref. RHT/SAV/MD/1/2015

February 2015

Medical Product Alert No. 1/2015

Falsified anti-malarial medicine circulating in West Africa

This Medical Product Alert relates to the confirmed circulation of falsified anti-malarial medicine in Togo and Côte d'Ivoire.

Following notification received from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund), confirmation has been received that the following batch of Artemether/Lumefantrine, purchased in a street market in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire is falsified and contains **none of the correct active pharmaceutical ingredients**.

Product: Artemether/Lumefantrine
Batch Number: DYI402542
Manufacturing date: 07/2013
Expiry Date: 06/2016

It should be noted that the outer (secondary) packaging bears the batch number DYI402542 (Fig. 1 and 2.) and the blister (primary) packaging containing the tablets bears the batch number DYI402201 (Fig. 3).

Both the outer packaging and the blister bear the ACTm green leaf logo of the Affordable Medicines Facility-malaria programme. The packaging is in English.

In addition, the following boxes of Artemether/Lumefantrine were discovered in a drug store in Lomé, Togo during an INTERPOL operation.

Product: Artemether/Lumefantrine
Batch Number: DYI402542
Manufacturing date: 07/2013
Expiry Date: 07/2016

In this case, whilst the outer bulk (tertiary) packaging bears the batch number DYI402541 (Fig. 4), the outer individual packs (secondary) packaging bear the batch number DYI402542 (Fig. 5) and the blister (primary) packaging containing the tablets bear the batch number DYI402201 (Fig. 6).

All three levels of packaging bear the ACTm green leaf logo of the Affordable Medicines Facility-malaria programme. The packaging is in English.

Subsequent analysis conducted on behalf of the Global Fund has confirmed these products to be falsified and contain **none of the correct active pharmaceutical ingredients**.

Arthemether/Lumefantrine is a fixed dose artemesinin based combination therapy (ACT) and is a first line treatment for plasmodium falciparum malaria.

The genuine versions of this medicine are manufactured by Ipca Laboratories Ltd. Ipca have confirmed to WHO that they did not manufacture these batches and that they are falsified versions of their products. However all of the batch numbers mentioned have been copied from genuine Ipca batches of Artemether/Lumefantrine which have since expired and should no longer be available on the market.

WHO requests increased vigilance within the supply chains of countries likely to be affected by these falsified products. That vigilance should include hospitals, clinics and pharmacies in addition to drug stores, street markets and roadside vendors.

If you have possession of any of these batches of medicine, please consult with a pharmacist or doctor as soon as possible and report the matter to your local medicines regulatory authority.

National medicines regulatory authorities are asked to notify WHO if these batches are discovered in your country.

For any further information concerning this alert please contact rapidalert@who.int.

Fig. 1 Product discovered in Côte d'Ivoire, secondary packaging



Fig. 2 Product discovered in Côte d'Ivoire, secondary packaging

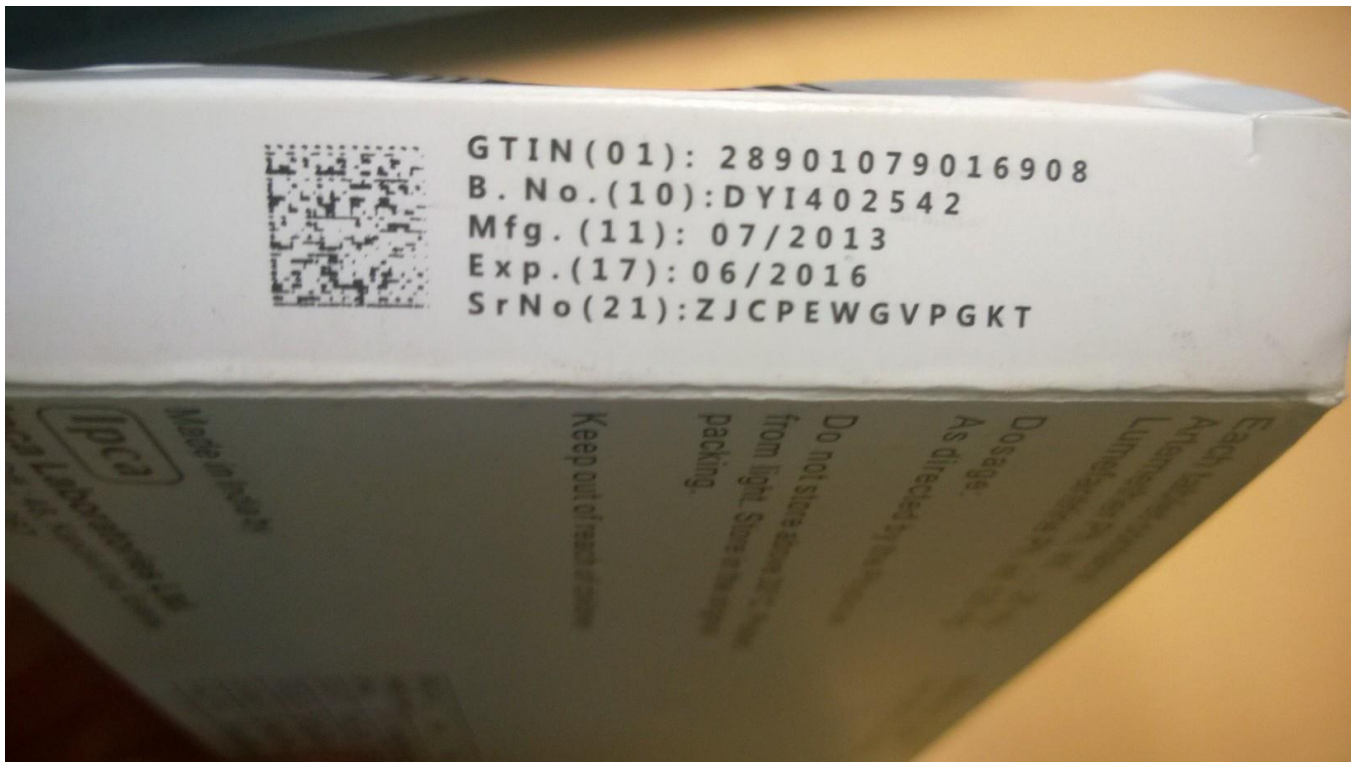


Fig. 3 Product discovered in Côte d'Ivoire, primary packaging



Fig. 4 Product discovered in Togo, tertiary packaging



Fig. 5 Product discovered in Togo, secondary packaging

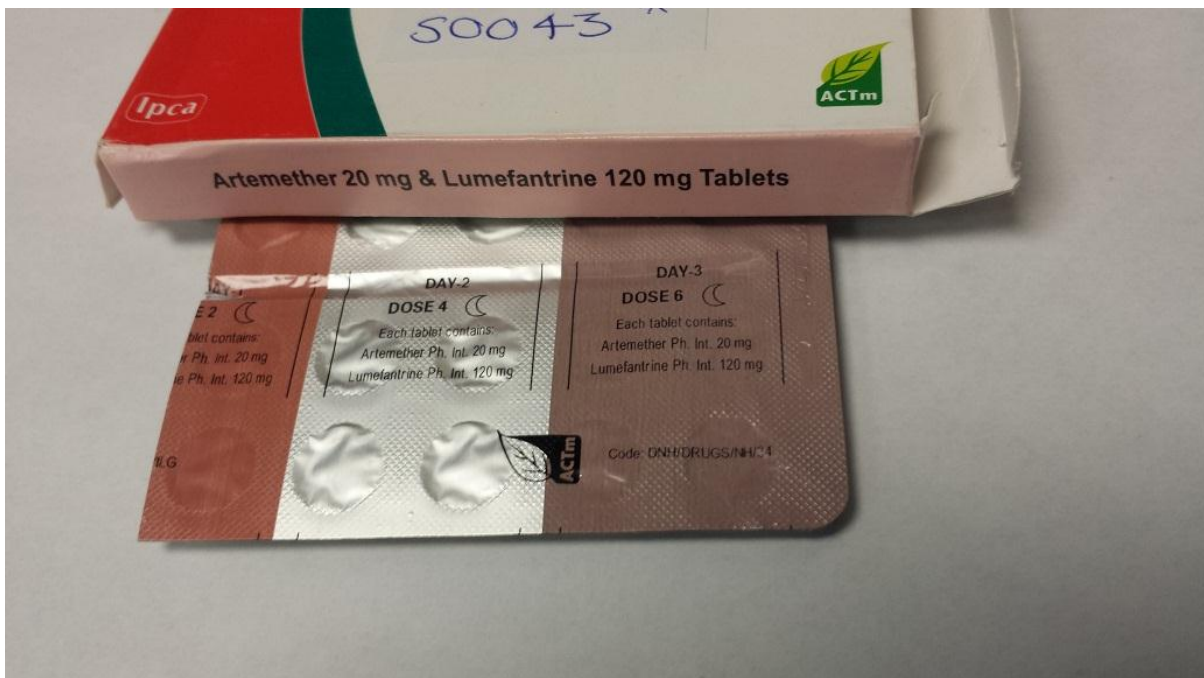


Fig. 6 Product discovered in Togo, primary packaging

