



18 December 2013

FDA ADVISORY

No. **2014-004**

SUBJECT: CONSUMER WARNING AGAINST BUYING COUNTERFEIT VACCINES FROM THE INTERNET BUY AND SELL WEBSITE sulit.com.ph



On 27 November 2013, a Philippine buy and sell website *sulit.com.ph* took down at least 166 medicines, mostly prescription vaccines and other biological products for human and pet animals. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) pointed out Bureau Circular No. 02 s. 1999, which prohibits food or dietary supplements to be advertised with curative or therapeutic claims, and Department of Health Administrative Order No. 65 s. 1989, which prohibits vaccines and other prescription medicines to be advertised in any form of mass media.

When the *sulit.com.ph* owner and administrator collaborated with the FDA in removing all advertised health products with unproven safety and efficacy in their website, they actually helped the consumers from wasting their money and from averting serious illness or even fatal injuries. However, as of 16 December 2013, the FDA has monitored the following vaccines being advertised or sold on-line by *sulit.com.ph*:

- a) Meningo Vaccine Home Service Vaccination
(<http://www.sulit.com.ph/index.php/view+classifieds/id/32638553/Meningo+Vaccine+Home+Service+Vaccination?referralKeywords=vaccine&featureType=13&event=Sponsored+Ranking,Position,1-1,1>)
- b) 5 in 1 vaccine SM Fairview area free delivery
(<http://www.sulit.com.ph/index.php/view+classifieds/id/32834473/5+in+1+vaccine+SM+fairview+area+free+delivery?referralKeywords=vaccine&event=Search+Ranking,Position,1-1,1>)
- c) Cervical Cancer Vaccines (Healthway Clinics) - 3 Doses
(<http://www.sulit.com.ph/index.php/view+classifieds/id/32862216/CERVICAL+CANCER+VACCINES+%28HEALTHWAY+CLINICS%29+-+3+Doses?referralKeywords=vaccine&event=Search+Ranking,Position,1-4,4>)
- d) Immunization - Cervical Cancer + Pneumoccal Vaccine
(<http://www.sulit.com.ph/index.php/view+classifieds/id/32718054/Immunization+-+Cervical+Cancer+%2B+Pneumoccal+Vaccine?referralKeywords=vaccine&event=Search+Ranking,Position,1-9,9>)



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION



- e) Immunization - Pneumoccal Vaccine (Christmas Promo)
<http://www.sulit.com.ph/index.php/view+classifieds/id/32718074/Immunization+-+Pneumoccal+Vaccine+%28Christmas+Promo%29?referralKeywords=vaccine&event=Search+Ranking.Position.1-10.10>

All consumers are hereby warned against buying their medicines in the internet. Buying prescription (Rx) and over-the-counter (OTC) drugs from the buy and sell website like **sulit.com.ph** is risky. The advertisers may be bogus. Though the link or site may look professional and legitimate, with matching pictures to boot, it could actually be an illegal operation or a scam.

Advertisers of vaccines are suspect when they are in a buy and sell website such as **sulit.com.ph**. The following may indicate fraud and health scam:

1. The advertisers offer to sell prescription drugs even without a prescription, which is against the Pharmacy Law (RA 5921) and the Food, Drugs, and Devices and Cosmetic Act (RA 3720).
2. The advertisers do not provide a reliable telephone number for consumers.
3. The advertisers offers prices that are lower than the prevailing price in the market.
4. The advertisers post prescription products that require special handling or storage condition, like compliance to cold chain.

So far, the FDA has received only one application for a license to operate an online pharmacy. The application is currently under serious evaluation and consideration.

To report any adverse drug reaction or adverse events, kindly email us via report@fda.gov.ph. For more information or clarification, kindly email us via info@fda.gov.ph.


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