

## **A Literature review on the global burden and impact of substandard and falsified medicine**

**Olanrewaju Olanamide Popoola**

Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria

Substandard and falsified medicines are a global health concern negatively affecting individuals, the public, the pharmaceutical industry and governments all over the world. This review aims to examine the global prevalence of substandard and falsified medicines, its impact on health and the health system, including socio-economic impacts and strategies for curbing this menace. A literature review of published articles between January 2000 and May 2020 was done with keywords “Substandard”, “Counterfeit”, and “Falsified medicines”. Articles were sourced from PubMed, World Health Organization (WHO) databases and Google Scholar. There are reports of substandard and falsified medicines from all WHO regions with noticeable prevalence in the African Region.

These medicines have been reported to cause death, antimicrobial resistance, increase prevalence of diseases, and loss of confidence in the health system. Increased patients spending, loss of productivity, strain of limited health systems resources, and loss of government revenue are major socio-economic implications of substandard and falsified medicines. An increase in criminal sanctions, global harmonization of drug regulatory authorities, and appropriate education of healthcare professionals and patients on how to prevent, detect, and respond to reported cases of substandard and falsified medicines are strategies that can be implemented to curb the menace of these medicines. Registered pharmacists and pharmacy students play critical roles in addressing this global health issue.

### **Biography**

Olanrewaju Olanamide Popoola has over 3 years in clinical pharmacy practice, research and public health interventions. Currently he works as a Pharmacist at Health Plus limited, where he focuses on providing pharmaceutical care, health and medicine information and filling prescriptions.

Olanrewaju has volunteered with the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria Young Pharmacist Group, and the International Pharmaceutical Students Federation (IPSF). He served as a mentor during the IPSF Global Leaders-in-training where he developed the leadership, communication and research skills of 10 mentors from 6 countries through his volunteering activities. He has impacted over 2,500 pharmacy students and recent pharmacy graduates from over 50 countries.

He has a Bachelor of Pharmacy from Obafemi Awolowo University with certifications in Leadership and Management in health, and Project Management in Health both from the University of Washington. He also has a certification on Health Systems Strengthening from the University of Melbourne in partnership with USAID. He is a fellow of the Young Professionals Boot camp organized by the Platform Nigeria, the Carrington Fellowship of the US Consulate general Lagos and the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) RLC West Africa.

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