Public Notice – Drug Alert

Falsified Hepatitis C medicines circulating in South East Asia

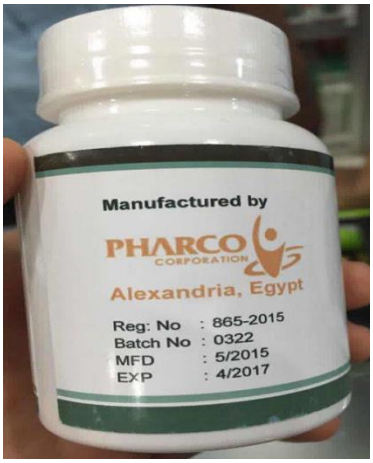
The Pharmacy Board of Sierra Leone as part of its legal mandate to ensure that only good quality, safe and efficacious medicines and other regulated products are on the Sierra Leone's market hereby informs the general public that falsified versions of Sofosbuvir 400mg + Ledipasvir 90mg and Daclatasvir 60mg are in circulation in South East Asia.

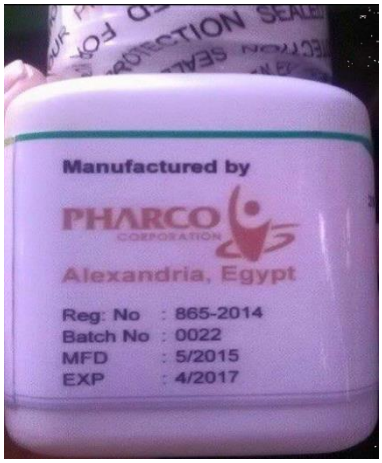
Both products are used to treat Hepatitis C. *Daclatasvir 30mg* and the fixed dose combination of *Sofosbuvir 400mg + Ledipasvir 90mg* are on the WHO list of Essential Medicines.

In February 2016, WHO was informed by a local NGO working in Myanmar that they had identified falsified versions of the two following products:

Product Name	**Batch No.**	**Manufacture Date**	**Expiry Date**
LEDSO capsules	0022	5/2015	4/2017
DAKAVIR	0322	5/2015	4/2017

See photographs below:





Both products claim to be manufactured by ***PHARCO Corporation; Alexandria, Egypt***.

It is necessary to ensure that all medical products are obtained from authentic and reliable sources. Their authenticity and origin should be carefully checked and verified with manufacturers before use.

PHARCO Corporation has stated that:

- they do not manufacture the specific fixed dose combination of *Sofosbuvir 400mg + Ledipasvir 90mg*
- they do not manufacture any products under the names of *LEDSO* nor *DAKAVIR*
- they do not manufacture *Daclatasvir 60mg* at this moment in time.

If you are in possession of the same batches shown on the above photographs please do not use. Contact a Pharmacist or a Doctor as soon as possible for advice and report the incident to the Pharmacy Board of Sierra Leone.

If you have any information concerning the supply of these products please contact the Pharmacy Board of Sierra Office at the Central Medical Stores, New England Ville, Freetown or our regional offices in Bo, Kenema, Makeni and Kono.

The Pharmacy Board requests increased vigilance from the general public for these falsified products and to forward all products containing the above mentioned batches to the Board for further regulatory action.