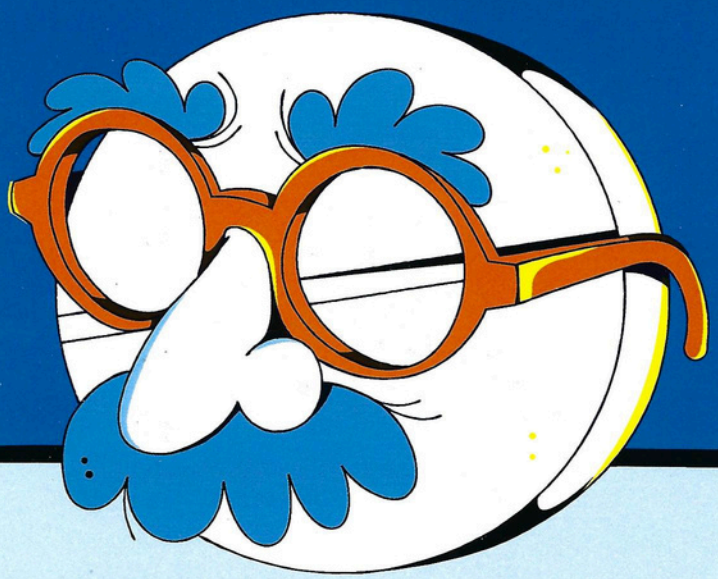
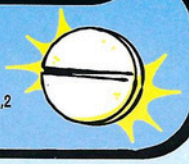
BEWARE OF THE FAKE & SWITCH



Get the facts on fake pills and the dangers hiding inside.

Every year, millions of fake pills (also called counterfeit pills) are made to look like real prescription drugs you get from your doctor.[1,2]



Examples include[2]:

- ⚠ **Oxycodone (OxyContin®, Percocet®)**
- ⚠ **Hydrocodone (Vicodin®)**
- ⚠ **Benzodiazepines (Xanax®, Valium®)**
- ⚠ **Amphetamines (Adderall®)**

While they may look the same, these imposters are far from real. And the worst part is what they're hiding on the inside.

People are mixing fentanyl into illegal drugs with deadly results.

Half of pills tested in 2024 contained a potentially deadly dose of fentanyl.[3] A doctor can prescribe fentanyl to treat severe pain, especially after surgery or for advanced-stage cancer.[4] However, people also make it illegally adding it to other illegal drugs to make them cheaper, more powerful, and more addictive.

Fentanyl makes illegal drugs more dangerous.[4]

The scariest part about fentanyl? You can't see, smell, or taste it.[4,5] It doesn't take much to cause an overdose—just 2 milligrams of fentanyl, the amount that would fit on the tip of a pencil, can be deadly.[1]

A fatal overdose can happen to anyone.

If someone offers you a pill, there's no way to know what's inside or if it's really what it claims to be. It's not worth the risk.

Keep it real.

Only take pills that your doctor or healthcare provider prescribes to you, and always get your prescriptions from a pharmacy you trust.

FENTANYL, A SYNTHETIC OPIOID, IS UP TO:

50X stronger than heroin. | **100X** stronger than morphine.[4]

Learn more about fake pills:

- Stop Overdose Campaign (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- One Pill Can Kill (U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration)
- BeSafeRx (U.S. Food and Drug Administration)

Learn more about how to safely dispose of unused prescription drugs:

- Over the Dose (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America)

References:

1 One Pill Can Kill. DEA.gov. Accessed January 7, 2025. https://www.dea.gov/onepill.

2 Info for Teens. One Pill Can Kill. DEA.gov. Accessed January 7, 2025. https://www.dea.gov/onepill/teens.

3 Overdose deaths decline, fentanyl threat looms. Press release. U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). December 16, 2024. Accessed March 20, 2025. https://www.dea.gov/press-releases/2024/12/16/overdose-deaths-decline-fentanyl-threat-looms.

4 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Facts About Fentanyl. Published May 2024. Accessed January 7, 2025. https://www.cdc.gov/stop-overdose/media/pdfs/2024/05/CDC_Fentanyl-Fact-Sheet_General_508.pdf.

5 Fentanyl. cdc.gov. Accessed January 7, 2025. https://www.cdc.gov/overdose-prevention/about/fentanyl.html.

www.hubcoalitionsc.org

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