Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

FDA ADVISORY

No. 2019-152

30 MAY 2019

TO: **ALL HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS, LOCAL HEALTH CENTERS, HEALTH INSTITUTIONS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC**

SUBJECT: **Public Health Warning Against the Purchase and Use of the Verified Counterfeit Versions of ANTI-RABIES SERUM (EQUINE) EQUIRAB 5mL Vial**

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) advises the public against the purchase and use of the verified counterfeit versions of Anti-rabies Serum (Equine) with Brandname EQUIRAB.

Counterfeit Version 1

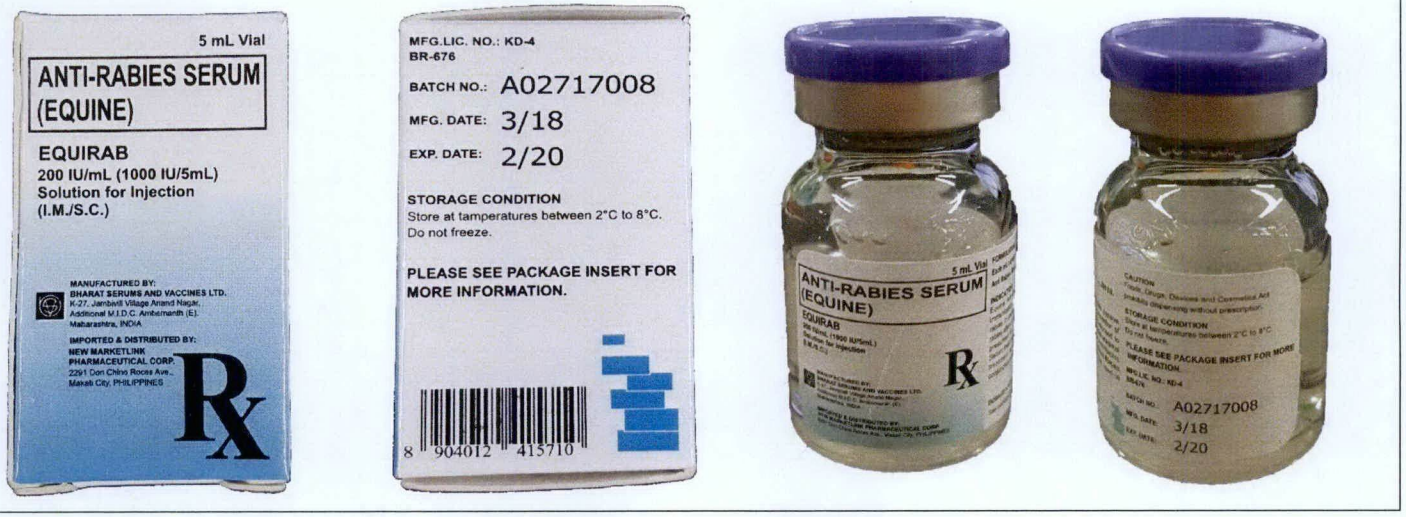

Figure 1. Counterfeit version 1 of EQUIRAB Anti-rabies Serum (Equine)

Counterfeit Version 2

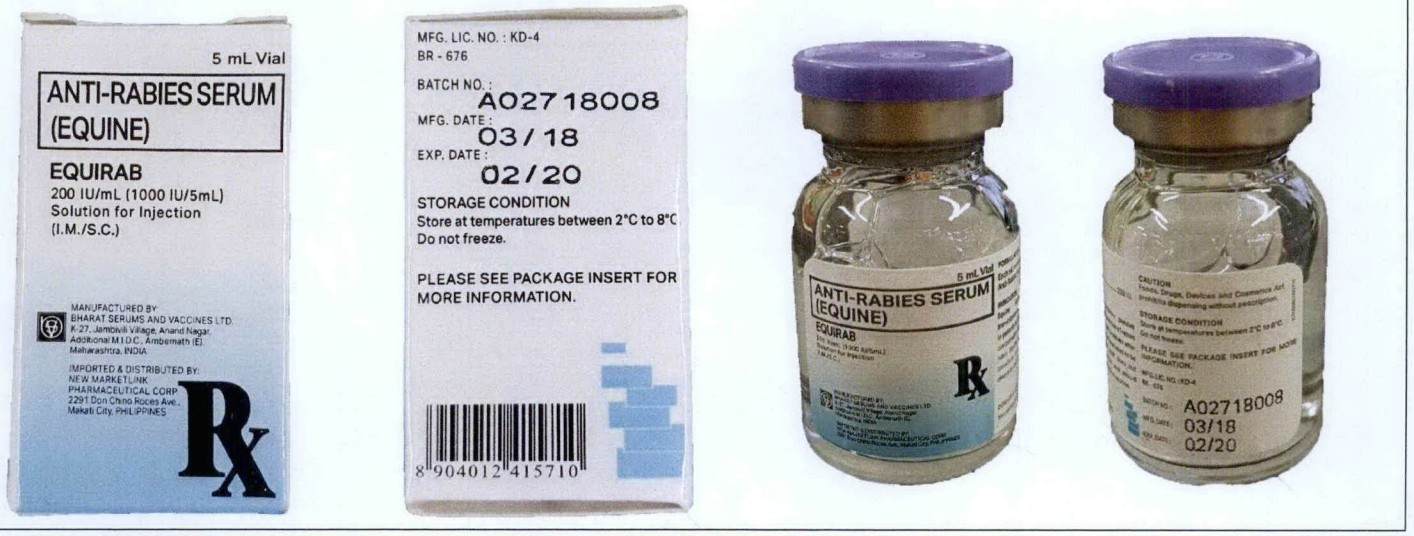

Figure 2. Counterfeit version 2 of EQUIRAB Anti-rabies Serum (Equine)

Civic Drive, Filinvest City, Alabang 1781 Muntinlupa, Philippines
Trunk Line +63 2 857 1900 Fax +63 2 807 0751
Website: www.fda.gov.ph Email: info@fda.gov.ph

Counterfeit Version 3

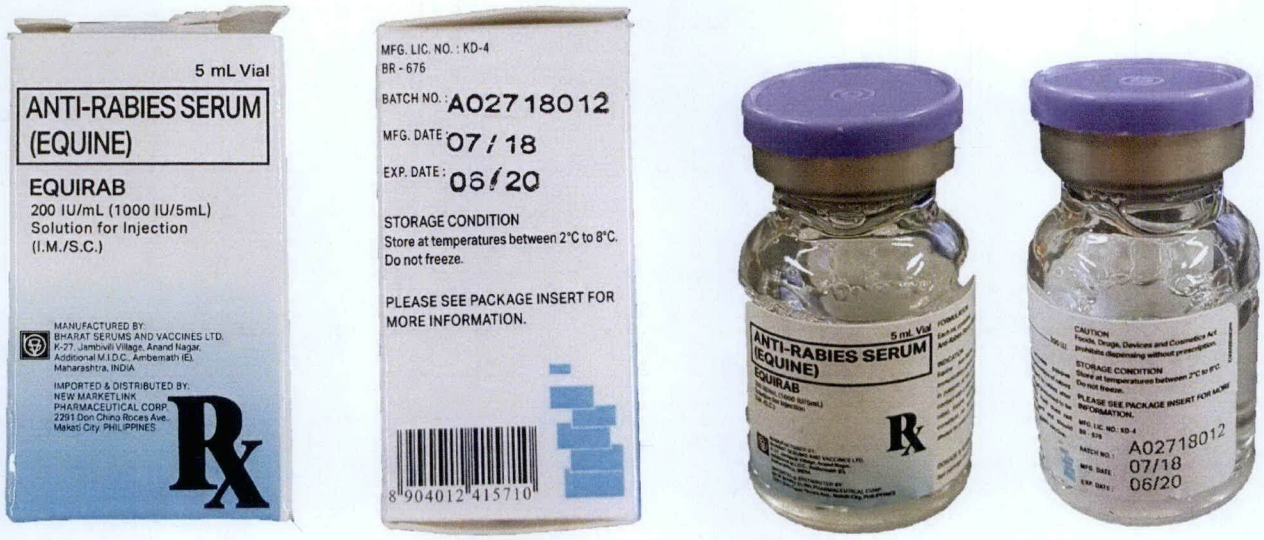

Figure 3. Counterfeit version 3 of EQUIRAB Anti-rabies Serum (Equine)

Comparison of the counterfeit versions with the authentic product:

- The blue color in the box labels and in the vials of the counterfeit versions are darker than that of the authentic product.
- The labels of the counterfeit versions reflect New Marketlink Pharmaceuticals Corp. as the Importer and Distributor while the labels of the authentic product reflect BSV Bioscience Phils., Inc. as the Importer and New Marketlink Pharmaceuticals Corp. as the Distributor.
- The registration number of the authentic product is written as *"D.R. NO. : BR – 676"* while in the counterfeit versions it is printed as *"BR - 676"*.
- The Rx symbol in the vial of the authentic product is located close to the generic outline box while in the vials of counterfeit versions it is positioned far below the generic outline box.
- The barcode arrangement of the counterfeit versions are different from that of the authentic product.
- The font format of the Rx symbol on the counterfeit version 1 differs from that of the authentic product.

Authentic product

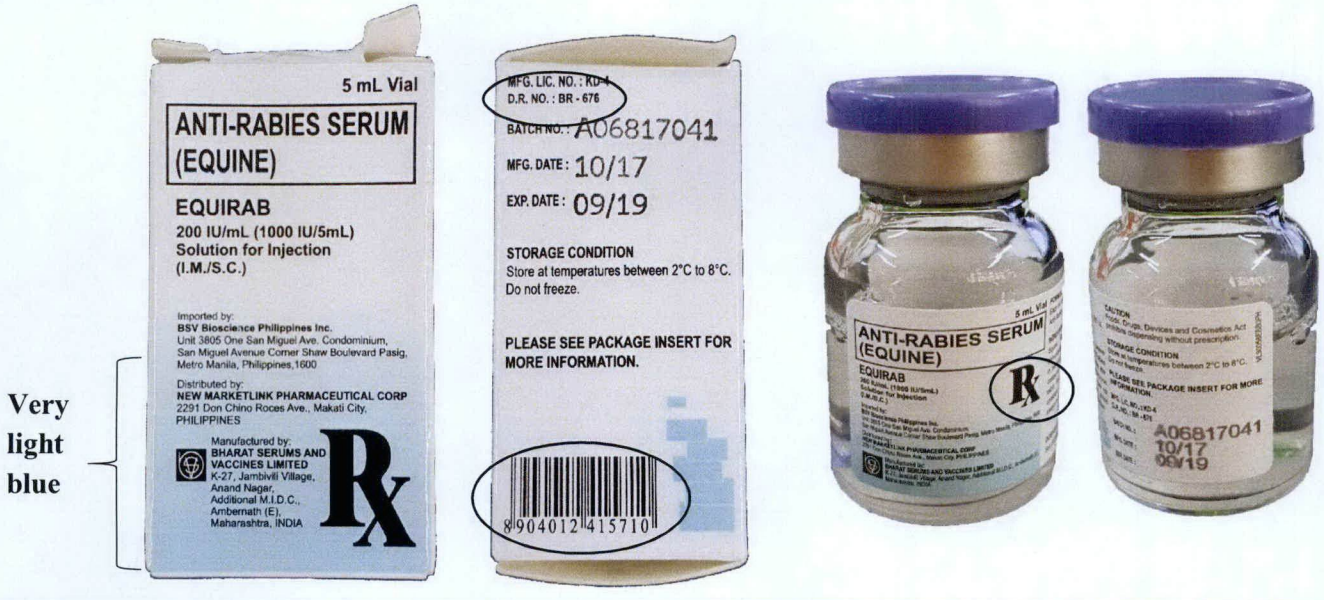

Figure 4. Authentic Registered EQUIRAB Anti-rabies Serum (Equine)

The Batch numbers that were confirmed by the Marketing Authorization Holder (MAH), BSV Bioscience Philippines Inc. as Counterfeit versions are the following:

- Batch A02717008 (Counterfeit version 1)
- Batch A02718008 (Counterfeit version 2)
- Batch A02718012 (Counterfeit version 3)

All healthcare professionals, local health centers, health institutions and the general public are hereby warned of these counterfeit drug products in the market which pose potential danger or injury to consumers. Consumers, distributors and retailers are also reminded to purchase drug products only from FDA-licensed establishments.

Likewise, all establishments and outlets are hereby warned against selling and/or dispensing these verified counterfeit drug products with the foregoing features. The importation, selling or offering for sale, brokering, donating or possession without proof of legitimate purchase of such is in direct violation of Republic Act No. 9711, or the Food and Drug Administration Act of 2009, and Republic Act No. 8203, or the Special Law on Counterfeit Drugs, therefore a penalty shall be imposed.

The Bureau of Customs is urged to restrain the importation or entry of these counterfeit versions of EQUIRAB.

All Local Government Units (LGUs) and Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) are requested to ensure that these counterfeit versions are not sold, made available or used in their localities or areas of jurisdiction.

For more information and inquiries, please e-mail us at **info@fda.gov.ph**. To report continuous sale or distribution of unregistered or counterfeit health products, kindly e-mail us via **report@fda.gov.ph**, or through the online reporting facility, **eReport**, at **www.fda.gov.ph/ereport**. You may also call the Center for Drug Regulation and Research at telephone number **(02)809-5596**. For any suspected adverse drug reaction (ADR), report immediately to FDA through this link: **www.fda.gov.ph/adr-report-new** and fill out all the required fields.

Dissemination of the information to all concerned is requested.

ROLANDO ENRIQUE D. DOMINGO, MD, DPBO
Undersecretary of Health
Officer-in-Charge, Director General

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