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Haiti to crack down on counterfeit medicines

The Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti: Health officials announced a crackdown on the counterfeit medicine trade in the capital, where street vendors by the hundreds sell unmarked antibiotics and cold medications out of buckets and plastic bags.

Officials will seize any contraband medicines and also shut down unlicensed pharmacies selling drugs that have not undergone safety testing, Health Director Gabriel Thimothe said Monday.

No penalties were announced for people caught selling the medications.

Counterfeit pharmaceuticals are rampant in underdeveloped countries, according to the World Health Organization. In 1995, nearly 90 children died in Haiti after they ingested a cheap cough syrup laced with a chemical used in antifreeze.

<http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/07/10/news/CB-GEN-Haiti-Fake-Drugs.php>