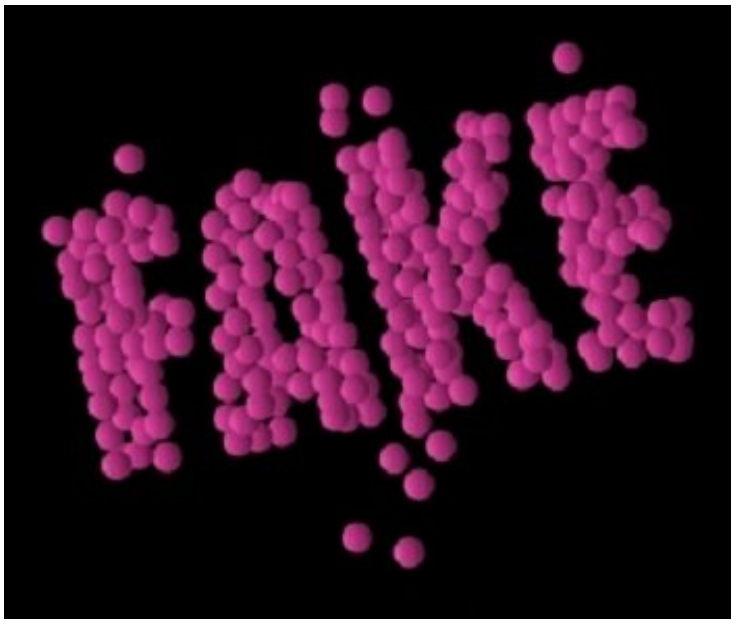
BioSpectrum the business of Bio & Health Sciences ASIA EDITION

US FDA raises a red flag on fake Ebola drugs

August 20, 2014 | Regulatory | By BioSpectrum Bureau



Singapore: Since the outbreak of the Ebola virus in West Africa, the US FDA has seen and received consumer complaints about a variety of products claiming to either prevent the Ebola virus or treat the infection.

There are currently no FDA-approved vaccines or drugs to prevent or treat Ebola. Although there are experimental Ebola vaccines and treatments under development, these investigational products are in the early stages of product development, have not yet been fully tested for safety or effectiveness, and the supply is very limited.

There are no approved vaccines, drugs, or investigational products specifically for Ebola available for purchase on the Internet. By law, dietary supplements cannot claim to prevent or cure a disease, said the organization in a statement.

It also said that Individuals promoting these unapproved and fraudulent products must take immediate action to correct or remove these claims or face potential FDA action.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Ebola does not pose a significant risk to the US public. Unfortunately, during outbreak situations, fraudulent products that claim to prevent, treat, or cure a disease all too often appear on the market. The FDA monitors for these fraudulent products and false claims and takes appropriate action to protect consumers.

Ebola is the cause of a viral hemorrhagic fever disease. Symptoms include fever, headache, joint and muscle aches, weakness, diarrhea, vomiting, stomach pain, lack of appetite, and abnormal bleeding. Symptoms of the virus can appear anywhere from two to 21 days after exposure, but is most commonly seen on days 8 to 10.

Ebola is spread through direct contact with the body fluids of an infected person, or with objects like needles that have been contaminated with the virus. People who do not show symptoms are not contagious.