Recently, the CRS participated in a Sub-regional PAHO/WHO workshop to strengthen approaches related to substandard and falsified medicines (SF) and pharmacovigilance (PV) in Georgetown, Guyana July 24-26, 2018. Regulators/procurers from around CARICOM attended, including participants from Bahamas, Belize, Haiti, Jamaica, Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, and Trinidad and Tobago.

PAHO and WHO experts worked with participants on current best practices related to the identification and management of SF products and adverse events, including reporting into the WHO Global Surveillance and Monitoring System and the WHO Program for International Drug Monitoring. Both are global databases that allow countries to access confidential information about suspect products and adverse reactions, respectively. Manufacturing and distribution of medicines are increasingly global enterprises and bad medicines in one jurisdiction can potentially find their way across continents to other jurisdictions.
The meeting signifies the growing attention and strong commitment that CARICOM states are giving to regulatory issues.