

Pharmaceutical Anti-Counterfeiting Anti-Diversion Flash Report

This report provides a summary of pharmaceutical counterfeiting and diversion focused articles tracked during the month of June 2009. Provided are article titles along with hot links. All links are maintained by 3rd party websites and, therefore, availability may change. Here are the headlines:

Prescribed Problem: Illegal Use of Medications a Growing Concern, The Daily Record

Since pharmaceutical opiates are typically prescribed for pain through legitimate prescriptions, yet obtained by deceptive means, the drugs are creating a new culture of addicts and dealers.

<http://www.the-daily-record.com/news/article/4601460>

Prescription Drug Distribution Scheme Busted, Indictment Unsealed - OxyContin Involved, Imperial Valley News

A Michigan medical business owner and employees were charged with unlawfully distributing schedule II drugs and committing health care fraud. They obtained more than 200,000 dosage units valued at over \$5 million and billed Medicare over \$800,000.

http://www.imperialvalleynews.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5814&Itemid=1

Deputies Seek Access to Prescription Drug Database, The Daily Reflector

According to some estimates, the prescription diversion problem has become as great as the illegal drug trade; and, according to the 2007 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, the non-medical use of prescription pain relievers is the second most common form of illicit drug use in the U.S.. Allowing North Carolina sheriff investigators access to a Controlled Substances Reporting System would expand the number of law enforcement officers investigating suspicious prescriptions.

<http://www.reflector.com/news/deputies-seek-access-to-prescription-drug-database-643433.html>

U.S. and Illinois Chambers Commend Passage of State Anti-Counterfeiting Bill, The Financial

The Illinois Senate passed a bill that would strengthen anti-counterfeiting enforcement efforts and criminal penalties in the state. Fake prescription drugs are among the most commonly counterfeited and pirated products, which endanger public health and safety.

<http://blog.opsecsecurity.com/news-us-and-illinois-chambers-commend-passage-of-state-anti-counterfeiting-bill/>

Combating the Spread of Fake Drugs, International Policy Network

Counterfeit and substandard drugs are a serious and growing problem around the world, especially in less developed countries where fake drugs pose direct threats to patients.

http://www.ncpa.org/sub/dpd/index.php?Article_ID=18062

Shock of Fake Toxic Drugs on Sale, The Standard

Thousands of Kenyans are routinely risking their lives by taking unwholesome drugs, with researchers warning that nearly half the drugs in Kenya are either fake or sub-standard. Not only do many of these drugs contain an array of toxic substances, but they can lead to an increase in drug resistance.

<http://www.eastandard.net/InsidePage.php?id=1144015069&cid=4>

Bad Medicine, Dawn News

According to the World Health Organization, Pakistan is the third largest counterfeit drug producer in the world, responsible for a 13.3% share of the global production of spurious medicine. Inadequate or ineffective drug regulatory control is the direct cause of this scourge.

<http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/news/pakistan/16-bad-medicine-hs-03>

Man Sentenced Over £6M Unlicensed and Counterfeit Medicines Case, MHRA

An unlicensed and counterfeit medicines dealer from the U.K. was sentenced to two years in prison for selling and supplying fake drugs through an illegal online pharmacy.

<http://www.pharmaceuticalonline.com/article.mvc/Man-Sentenced-Over-6M-Unlicensed-And-0001?track=intro>

Counterfeit Drugs: Why Take Preventative Medicine Now, Supply and Demand Chain Executive

While the U.S.'s finished dose drug supply is one of the safest in the world, it is not immune to pharmaceutical supply chain risks, particularly when global drug manufacturing and the material sourcing ecosystem are included in the analysis.

[http://www.sdexec.com/web/online/Decision-Support-Trends/Counterfeit-Drugs--Why--Take-Preventative-Medicine-Now/16\\$11402](http://www.sdexec.com/web/online/Decision-Support-Trends/Counterfeit-Drugs--Why--Take-Preventative-Medicine-Now/16$11402)

Raids Target Organized Counterfeit Medicines Operation, PoliceProfessional.com

Raids by Egyptian police, customs, and private sector investigators led to the recovery of millions of potentially life-threatening counterfeit medicines, worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

<http://www.policeprofessional.com/news.aspx?id=8865>

Anti-Counterfeiting Legislation Would Authorize Mandatory Drug Recalls, Thompson

The introduced Counterfeit Drug Enforcement Act of 2009 would authorize the FDA to require drug manufacturers to incorporate anti-counterfeiting technologies deemed "technically feasible" and would prohibit misbranded drugs and pharmaceuticals not manufactured in accordance with requirements.

<http://www.thompson.com/public/newsbrief.jsp?cat=FOODDRUG&id=2173>

FDA Warns Public about Stolen Levemir Insulin, The Partnership for Safe Medicines

The FDA notified patients and healthcare professionals that stolen vials of Levemir made by Novo Nordisk Inc. are being sold in the U.S. market. They may not have been stored and handled properly and may be dangerous for patients to use.

<http://www.safemedicines.org/2009/06/fda-warns-public-about-stolen-levemir-insulin.html>

Man Sentenced in AIDS Drug Scam, The Desert Sun

The ringleader of a scam in which the drug Serostim was purchased from AIDS patients and then re-sold to pharmacies by a New Hampshire-based distributor was sentenced to 52 months in prison for engaging in unlicensed wholesale distribution of prescription drugs.

<http://www.mydesert.com/article/20090606/NEWS0802/906060309/1006/news01/Man+sentenced+in+AIDS+drug+scam>

Counterfeit Drugs: A Growing Global Health Crisis, Science-Based Medicine

The counterfeit pharmaceutical industry has experienced exponential growth over the past two decades, which is largely fueled by the outsourcing of manufacturing plants to countries with limited regulation and by the sale of medications via the internet.

<http://www.sciencebasedmedicine.org/?p=525>

Extent of Counterfeit Drug Problem and Solutions are Uncertain, InfoZine

At The Global Impact of Fake Medicine conference, panelists highlighted several reasons for the global prevalence of the counterfeit drug problem, including the rise of internet drug sales, the high profit potential, and the number of foreign pharmacies in the U.S. market.

<http://www.infozine.com/news/stories/op/storiesView/sid/36327/>

Food and Drug Serialization: A Solution for a Safe and Secure Supply Chain that Protects Consumers and Improves Business, PR Web

The food and pharmaceutical supply chains require the linking of item-level serialization with track-and-trace capabilities as they face challenges from stock safety, counterfeiting, diversion, and returns.

<http://www.prweb.com/releases/2009/06/prweb2560024.htm>

Sinister Virus of Fake Drugs, Financial Mirror

Countries that respond to counterfeiting with increased laws, regulations, and inspections need to be wary of government corruption, as officials frequently demand 'fees' for approving products and allow counterfeit and sub-standard medicines to circulate.

<http://www.financialmirror.com/Columnist/COMMENT/408>

Pharma Companies Feeling "Supply Chain Pain", says UPS, PharmaFocus

There are many market factors driving regulatory concerns for pharmaceutical manufacturers, including a heightened focus on security and product safety, increasing global border controls, and more products requiring special handling coming into the market.

http://www.pharmafocus.com/cda/focusH/1,2109,21-0-0-JUN_2009-focus_news_detail-0-492903,00.html

B2B Trade Boards – a Key Link in the Counterfeit Trade?, Securing Pharma

Online business-to-business trade boards have been hijacked by organizations peddling illicit supplies of bulk pharmaceuticals, active ingredients, and packaging components. These unregulated environments provide a global sourcing platform for buyers and intermediaries in the pharmaceutical supply chain.

<http://www.securingspharma.com/40/articles/166.php>

USA: Cameroonian Pharmacist Charged with Defrauding Authorities, Washington Examiner

A Maryland pharmacist has been charged with possessing nearly 1,700 pounds of mislabeled, expired, and suspected counterfeit drugs valued at \$749,000 and with Medicare and Medicaid fraud totaling \$350,000.

<http://www.postnewsline.com/2009/06/usa-cameroonian-pharmacist-charged-with-defrauding-authorities.html>

Counterfeit Pharmaceuticals on the Internet, PharmTech

After a months-long investigation, German authorities busted a counterfeit drug ring selling fake drugs via internet pharmacy websites. Raids in five cities produced 46,000 counterfeit Viagra tablets.

<http://blog.pharmtech.com/2009/06/25/counterfeit-pharmaceuticals-on-the-internet/>

MHRA Told: Tighten Supply Chain Controls but Don't Over-Regulate, Pharma Times

In order to strengthen the U.K.'s medicines supply chain, the pharmaceutical wholesale licensing regime urgently needs to be addressed, so that supply chain partners can be more confident about security.

<http://www.pharmatimes.com/UKNews/article.aspx?id=16119>