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News & Events

FDA NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

P06-123

August 30, 2006

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888-INFO-FDA

FDA Warns Consumers Not to Buy or Use Prescription Drugs from Various Canadian Websites that Apparently Sell Counterfeit Products

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is advising consumers not to purchase prescription drugs from websites that have orders filled by Mediplan Prescription Plus Pharmacy or Mediplan Global Health in Manitoba, Canada following reports of counterfeit versions of prescription drug products being sold by these companies to U.S. consumers. FDA is investigating these reports and is coordinating with international law enforcement authorities on this matter.

FDA recommends that consumers who have purchased drugs from these websites not use the products because they may be unsafe. Laboratory analyses are underway for intercepted product that was destined for the U.S. market. Preliminary laboratory results to date have found counterfeits of the following drug products from these websites: Lipitor, Diovan, Actonel, Nexium, Hyzaar, Ezetrol (known as Zetia in the United States), Crestor, Celebrex, Arimidex, and Propecia. All of these medications require a prescription from a licensed health care provider to be legally dispensed.

DRUG NAME USE(S)

LIPITORCholesterol disordersCRESTORCholesterol disordersZETIA (US name) / EZETROL (Canadian name) Cholesterol disordersDIOVANHigh blood pressureHYZAARHigh blood pressure

ACTONEL Osteoporosis in postmenopausal women

NEXIUM Gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD)

CELEBREX Arthritis-related pain

ARIMIDEX Breast cancer

PROPECIA Male-pattern baldness

Some of the websites that are operated by Mediplan or that have order fulfillment through Mediplan are:

- www.RxNorth.com;
- · www.Canadiandrugstore.com;
- www.Rxbyfax.com;
- www.Northcountryrx.com;
- www.Canada-pharmacy.com;
- www.My-canada-pharmacy.com;
- www.NLRX.com;
- · www.Canampharmacy.com;
- · www.Canada-Meds-For-Less.net; and
- · www.Canadian-safe.com

As a general matter, FDA advises consumers to use caution when buying medical products online. Although a website may appear reputable and similar to legitimate retail pharmacy websites, many actually operate from outside the U.S. and provide unapproved drugs from unreliable sources.



found to be counterfeit. These results demonstrated that some Internet sites that claimed to be "Canadian" were, in fact, selling drugs of dubious origin, safety and efficacy.

Today's announcement is consistent with FDA's earlier message of the dangers posed by such websites and the need for caution on behalf of the public.

Drug counterfeiting is illegal for good reason. Drug counterfeiting defrauds consumers and can expose them to products containing unknown, ineffective, or harmful ingredients. Counterfeit drugs may be toxic or contain doses that are too small to treat a medical condition, or so large that they could endanger the health of the user. Because of the dangers posed by counterfeit drugs, the FDA aggressively investigates all instances of drug counterfeiting.

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FDA

U.S. Food and Drug Administration 10903 New Hampshire Avenue Silver Spring, MD 20993 Ph. 1-888-INFO-FDA (1-888-463-6332) Contact FDA



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