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Counterfeit Drug Incidents With Pain Medication

Reumofan Plus.WOW: In June 2012, the [FDA issued their first warning](http://www.safemedicines.org/2012/06/reumofan-plus-recall-undeclared-drug-ingredient.html)¹ for an over-the-counter arthritis/pain treatment called Reumofan Plus. Aimed primarily at Spanish-speaking patients, this purported herbal dietary supplement instead contained the dangerous pharmaceuticals Diclofenac Sodium and Methocarbomal. After the initial recall, the FDA [reported several deaths](http://www.safemedicines.org/2012/08/fda-receives-reports-of-fatalities-from-undeclared-ingredients-in-reumofan-plus461.html)² associated with taking Reumofan Plus, due to stroke, internal bleeding and other awful symptoms. In January 2013, the FDA was forced to issue yet another warning, as Reumofan Plus had been relabeled and was being [offered as WOW](http://www.safemedicines.org/2013/01/reumofan-plus-relabeled-and-sold-as-wow.html)³.

Counterfeit Vicodin: In March 2012, Abbot Pharmaceuticals, makers of Vicodin pain medication reported discovering [counterfeit versions of their product](http://www.safemedicines.org/2012/06/counterfeit-vicodin-purchased-online-contained-no-hydrocodone-443.html)⁴ for sale in the U.S. via the Internet. Instead of containing the actual ingredient for Vicodin, the pills contained Diclofenac Sodium, the same dangerous NSAID found in Reumofan Plus.

Tylenol Arthritis Shipment Stolen in Florida: In 2009, the FDA reported a huge shipment of [Tylenol PM and Tylenol Arthritis Pain Caplets](http://www.safemedicines.org/2009/10/tylenol-arthritis-and-tylenol-pm-caplets-stolen-from-cargo-terminal.html)⁵ were stolen from a cargo terminal in Jacksonville, Florida. The FDA sent out a warning due to the comprised nature of the lots of drugs that had been stolen. Once outside the secure supply chain, no guarantee of appropriate storage and handling can be guaranteed. [PSM board members explain](http://www.safemedicines.org/2009/08/why-steal-a-truck-full-of-drugs.html)⁶ why criminals would steal genuine drugs. Diverting the drugs to other markets, mixing the real drugs with fakes to improve their appearance of legitimacy, and selling the drugs “under the table” all present money-making opportunities for criminals not concerned with the health and well-being of American patients.

¹ <http://www.safemedicines.org/2012/06/reumofan-plus-recall-undeclared-drug-ingredient.html>

² <http://www.safemedicines.org/2012/08/fda-receives-reports-of-fatalities-from-undeclared-ingredients-in-reumofan-plus461.html>

³ <http://www.safemedicines.org/2013/01/reumofan-plus-relabeled-and-sold-as-wow.html>

⁴ <http://www.safemedicines.org/2012/06/counterfeit-vicodin-purchased-online-contained-no-hydrocodone-443.html>

⁵ <http://www.safemedicines.org/2009/10/tylenol-arthritis-and-tylenol-pm-caplets-stolen-from-cargo-terminal.html>

⁶ <http://www.safemedicines.org/2009/08/why-steal-a-truck-full-of-drugs.html>