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## Mississippi Counterfeit Drug Incidents

**Doctors Warned for Buying Fake Avastin:** In February 2012, the [FDA posted a public warning](#)<sup>1</sup> that counterfeit versions of the cancer-fighting drug Avastin had been purchased by doctors and clinics all over the United States. [Dr. John Whitecar](#)<sup>2</sup> of Columbus Hematology & Oncology in Columbus, MS was one of 134 U.S. doctors who received warning letters from the FDA concerning their dealings with known suppliers of counterfeit cancer medication.

**Mississippi Stores Raided for Selling Counterfeit Drugs:** In 2010, an undercover operation was conducted in Mississippi aimed at finding stores that were selling counterfeit medication over the counter. Centered primarily on convenience stores, [Operation Knock Out Knock-Offs](#)<sup>3</sup> turned up counterfeit versions of antibiotics, pain killers, birth control treatments and other counterfeits at stores throughout the state.

**Cardiovascular Disease and Counterfeit Drugs:** Residents of Mississippi suffer the [highest rates of cardiovascular disease in the United States](#)<sup>4</sup>. As such, patients in Mississippi are prime targets for drug counterfeiters. Cardiovascular medications are some of the [most counterfeited medications](#)<sup>5</sup> available on the Internet and they often contain dangerous ingredients instead of the real drug. Additionally, unscrupulous dietary supplement manufacturers offer [so-called herbal heart treatments](#)<sup>6</sup> that are instead dangerous to anyone who suffers heart disease.

**Diabetes and Counterfeit Drugs:** Residents of Mississippi also suffer [very high rates of Diabetes](#)<sup>7</sup>. Diabetes, like many other chronic conditions, is an ideal candidate for drug counterfeiters, since diabetics must constantly replenish their supply of test strips and insulin.. Fake test strips were found in the [U.S. in 2006](#),<sup>8</sup> and fake Insulin pen needles have turned up in several places throughout the globe. A [2009 study](#)<sup>9</sup> even found fake Diabetes treatments on store shelves in the United States. Counterfeit Diabetes treatments are a serious danger to unsuspecting patients.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.safemedicines.org/2013/01/fda-warnings-in28-states-six-prosecutions-511.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/DrugSafety/DrugIntegrityandSupplyChainSecurity/UCM310825.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.safemedicines.org/2010/11/mississippi-stores-selling-counterfeit-drugs-raided-51.html>

<sup>4</sup> <http://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/index.cfm/43,1160,91,html>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.safemedicines.org/2012/08/7-most-frequently-counterfeited-medicines-are-scary462.html>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.safemedicines.org/2013/02/be-heart-smart-516.html>

<sup>7</sup> Ibid. 4.

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.safemedicines.org/counterfeit-diabetes-treatments-show-up-all-over-the-globe.html>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.safemedicines.org/2009/11/cheng-mm-is-the-drugstore-safe-counterfeit-diabetes-products-on-the-shelves-j-diabetes-sci-technol-2.html>