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Tennessee Counterfeit Drug Incidents

Doctors Warned for Buying Fake Avastin: [In February 2012, the FDA posted a public warning¹](http://www.safemedicines.org/2012/02/counterfeit-cancer-treatment-drug-found-in-united-states.html) that counterfeit versions of the cancer-fighting drug Avastin had been purchased by doctors and clinics all over the United States. [4 doctors in Tennessee were subsequently sent warning letters by the FDA²](http://www.safemedicines.org/2013/01/fda-warnings-in-28-states-six-prosecutions-511.html) about doing business with known suppliers of counterfeit cancer medication. Since that time, at least one doctor warned concerning his purchase of counterfeit cancer medication has been prosecuted for knowingly giving his patients fake drugs.

William Kincaid/McLeod Cancer and Blood Center: [Dr. William Kincaid³](http://www.safemedicines.org/2012/12/doctor-pleads-guilty-in-misbranded-cancer-drug-case-501.html) of the McLeod Cancer and Blood Center of Johnson City, TN pled guilty to knowingly purchasing non-FDA approved cancer medications from a foreign supplier. Kincaid's office manager, Michael Dean Combs also pled guilty to similar charges. As early as 2006, nurses at the McLeod Cancer and Blood Center noticed that the cancer drugs they were being given to administer did not look genuine. Once Kincaid and Combs learned of the nurses' distrust, they went to some lengths to disguise the fake medication so as to allay the nurses' suspicions about the genuineness of the drugs.

Doctors warned for buying fake Botox: In December 2012, [5 doctors in Tennessee⁴](http://www.safemedicines.org/2013/01/fda-warns-doctors-in-38-states-to-stop-buying-unapproved-botox-from-foreign-suppliers-507.html) were warned by the FDA for doing business with known suppliers of counterfeit medication. The suppliers cited in the counterfeit Botox warning letters were the same suppliers identified as the source of counterfeit Avastin. The doctors were warned that any medication purchased from these suppliers "may be counterfeit, contaminated, improperly stored and transported, ineffective, and/or unsafe." Fake Botox poses a serious danger to consumers. In 2006 [four people in Florida became seriously ill⁵](http://www.safemedicines.org/2006/01/fake-botox-sickens-4-arizona-suppliers-land-in-jail.html) with Botulism after the administering of counterfeit Botox.

Medicine Cargo theft in Tennessee: On May 14, 2011, 13,000 packages of generic medication of several types were [stolen off of a tractor trailer⁶](http://www.safemedicines.org/2011/05/medicine-cargo-stolen-in-tennessee-255.html). Among the drugs stolen were antibiotics and drugs to treat cholesterol, heart failure, IBS, arthritis, high blood pressure, and depression. Authorities are concerned that the drugs will be introduced back into the secure supply chain after having been improperly stored and handled. Many drugs deteriorate or become toxic if [improperly stored or handled⁷](http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DevelopmentApprovalProcess/Manufacturing/ucm252324.htm#1).

Tennessee Pharmacy Forced into Recall Due to Contamination of Compound Medication: On May 28, 2013, The [FDA instituted a recall⁸](http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/SafetyInformation/SafetyAlertsforHumanMedicalProducts/ucm353953.htm) of all sterile products produced by Main Street Family Pharmacy, due to seven reported cases of apparent fungal infections in patients who used their products.

¹ <http://www.safemedicines.org/2012/02/counterfeit-cancer-treatment-drug-found-in-united-states.html>

² <http://www.safemedicines.org/2013/01/fda-warnings-in-28-states-six-prosecutions-511.html>

³ <http://www.safemedicines.org/2012/12/doctor-pleads-guilty-in-misbranded-cancer-drug-case-501.html>

⁴ <http://www.safemedicines.org/2013/01/fda-warns-doctors-in-38-states-to-stop-buying-unapproved-botox-from-foreign-suppliers-507.html>

⁵ <http://www.safemedicines.org/2006/01/fake-botox-sickens-4-arizona-suppliers-land-in-jail.html>

⁶ <http://www.safemedicines.org/2011/05/medicine-cargo-stolen-in-tennessee-255.html>

⁷ <http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DevelopmentApprovalProcess/Manufacturing/ucm252324.htm#1>

⁸ <http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/SafetyInformation/SafetyAlertsforHumanMedicalProducts/ucm353953.htm>