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Virginia Counterfeit Drug Incidents

Doctors Warned for Buying Fake Avastin: In February 2012, the [FDA posted a public warning](#)¹ that counterfeit versions of the cancer-fighting drug Avastin had been purchased by doctors and clinics all over the United States. The Retina Group of Tidewater, in Norfolk Virginia was subsequently sent a [warning letter](#)² by the FDA about doing business with known suppliers of counterfeit cancer medication.

Doctors warned for buying fake Botox: In December 2012, [4 doctors in Virginia](#)³ 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 ill](#)⁴ with Botulism after the administering of counterfeit Botox.

FDA Warns Consumers not to use Stolen Ashtma Inhalers: In 2010 the FDA warned consumers that [Advair inhalers that had been stolen](#)⁵ in from a GlaxoSmithKline warehouse in Richmond, Virginia in 2009 were showing up in pharmacies. Authorities are concerned that the have been improperly stored and handled. Many drugs deteriorate or become toxic if [improperly stored or handled](#)⁶.

Counterfeit Drugs Seized from Stores Throughout Fairfax, VA: Stores that primarily catered to Latino populations were discovered to be [selling counterfeit versions](#)⁷ of birth control pills and antibiotics, amongst other fake drugs. The fakes came to the attention of authorities after several reports of illness from people who took the counterfeit medications.

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

² <http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/DrugSafety/DrugIntegrityandSupplyChainSecurity/UCM310734.pdf>

³ <http://www.safemedicines.org/2013/01/fda-warns-doctors-in-38-states-to-stop-buying-unapproved-botox-from-foreign-suppliers-507.html>

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

⁵ <http://www.safemedicines.org/2010/07/fda-warns-consumers-not-to-use-stolen-advair-inhalers.html>

⁶ <http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DevelopmentApprovalProcess/Manufacturing/ucm252324.htm#1>

⁷ <http://www.safemedicines.org/2011/12/counterfeit-medicine-captured-by-police-in-virginia-stores-396.html>