8 Montana Doctors Implicated in Fake Drug Rings

Counterfeit cancer drugs have touched Montana as well. 8 medical practices in Montana have been implicated in various black market supply chains associated with counterfeit cancer treatments and other therapies.

Between 2008 and 2010, Belgrade resident Paul Bottomley sold American oncologists imported, non FDA-approved counterfeit cancer medication through his company, Montana Healthcare Solutions (MHCS). In 2010, Bottomley sold MHCS to a subsidiary of CanadaDrugs.com for $5 million, and continued to work as their advisor while they sold counterfeit cancer drugs that had no active ingredient to doctors across the country.

Families who have lots relatives to cancer will never know if their loved ones were given real medication or fake, and if they died from a lack of treatment.

The Deadly Counterfeit Drug Trade Thrives in Montana

The country has seen an upsurge in counterfeit prescription pills masquerading as painkillers and Xanax. These pills are disguised as real medications but made with deadly fentanyl or its even deadlier variants, and even a fraction of a single pill can mean death in less than 30 minutes of ingesting it.

Fentanyl is a serious threat to Montanans. Authorities have reported fentanyl overdoses in Billings, Bozeman, Butte and the Rocky Boy’s Reservation. They have seized fentanyl-laced pills in Billings and on the Rocky Boy’s Reservation.

Opening the U.S.’s closed drug supply chain puts Montanan lives at risk of serious injury or death.

Based on reported investigations. Note that each investigation could have affected hundreds of Montana residents.

**Fentanyl and Counterfeit Pills Containing Fentanyl**

**December 2017:** Five Chippewa Cree tribe members on the Rocky Boy's Reservation suffered near fatal overdoses after taking counterfeit pills that contained a mixture of fentanyl, heroin and other opioids.¹

**October 2017:** Billings police seized approximately 100 counterfeit oxycodone pills made of fentanyl while arresting alleged dealer Christopher Samuel Fear, who had sold fake pills to an informant.²

**September 2017:** Bozeman police warned that seven residents of Gallatin County had overdosed over a two week period, and that they suspected that fentanyl was to blame.³ Lewis and Clark County's sheriff issued a similar warning in November 2017.⁴

**July 2017:** Investigators arrested three people in Bozeman for allegedly distributing a heroin-fentanyl mixture connected with at least four overdoses in Butte.⁵

**November 2016:** Aaron Michael Shamo's indictment alleges that the Utah-based drug trafficker shipped 80 deadly counterfeit oxycodone pills to Montana over a two day period. Shamo was found with 95,000 counterfeit pills laced with fentanyl on November 22 and allegedly shipped his products to 24 states.⁶

**Black Market and Counterfeit Cancer Drugs**

**May 2013:** The FDA warned 780 medical practices, three in Montana, to stop doing business with unlicensed drug seller Medical Device King, which had sold 31 non-FDA approved medications, including counterfeit Avastin.⁷

**February 2012:** The FDA found that Montana resident Paul Bottomley had sold counterfeit Avastin that had no active ingredient to American oncologists through his company, Montana Healthcare Solutions (MHCS). He pleaded guilty to distributing the counterfeit cancer medication in March 2013, and was sentenced to 5 years probation, 6 months home confinement and a forfeiture of $6 million in profits. Bottomley sold MHCS to a subsidiary of CanadaDrugs.com in 2010. In 2012 and 2013, the FDA warned more than 500 medical practices across the country—two in Montana—to stop buying from CanadaDrugs.com subsidiaries that had sold American doctors counterfeit Avastin.⁸

**Misbranded and Counterfeit Botox**

**March 2016:** The FDA warned three Montana doctors and more than 1,200 nationwide to stop buying from Canadian distributor TC Medical, which sold 22 different kinds of non-FDA approved medications, including counterfeit Botox.⁹

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