Counterfeit cancer drugs have touched Mississippi as well. 17 different medical practices in Mississippi have been implicated in various black market supply chains associated with counterfeit cancer treatments and other therapies. Families who have lost 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 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 in Mississippi. When police arrested a man in Moss Point in July 2018, he was found in possession of 833 grams of powdered fentanyl and 99 fentanyl-laced counterfeit oxycodone pills. A traffic stop in February 2018 in Gulfport led to the seizure of 7,041 grams of fentanyl, enough to make over 2.3 million fatal doses.

Opening the U.S.’s closed drug supply chain puts Mississippi lives at risk of serious injury or death.
Counterfeit and Black Market Drug Investigations in Mississippi (2010–2018)

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

Fentanyl and Counterfeit Pills Containing Fentanyl

July 2018: Police arrested a Moss Point man who was in possession of 833 grams of powdered fentanyl and 99 counterfeit oxycodone pills made with fentanyl.¹

May 2018: Gulfport Police warned the public about counterfeit oxycodone pills made with fentanyl being sold in the area.²

February 2018: Two pleaded guilty after police in Gulfport discovered 7,041 grams of fentanyl in their truck.³

November 2017: A man in Madison County died after taking counterfeit oxycodone pills made with fentanyl.⁴

September 2017: A Mississippi grand jury indicted a Chinese national for allegedly manufacturing and distributing a variety of illegal drugs, including fentanyl.⁵

Black Market and Counterfeit Cancer Drugs

May 2013: The FDA warned 780 medical practices, including five doctors’ offices in Mississippi, to stop doing business with unlicensed drug seller Medical Device King, which had sold 31 non-FDA approved medications, including counterfeit Avastin.⁶

February–June 2012: One Mississippi doctor was among the 136 nationwide who received warning letters indicating that they may have purchased counterfeit Avastin or Altzuan from Quality Specialty Products (QSP), a CanadaDrugs subsidiary.⁷

Misbranded and Counterfeit Botox

March 2016: The FDA warned nine Mississippi 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.⁸

July 2013: The FDA warned one doctor/medical practice in Mississippi to stop purchasing fraudulent versions of Botox sold by Online Botox Pharmacy, Onlinebotox.com, and Onlinebotox.⁹

November 2012: One Mississippi doctor was among the 350 nationwide who received warning letters indicating that they may have purchased counterfeit versions of Botox from Quality Specialty Products (QSP), a CanadaDrugs subsidiary.¹⁰

Other Counterfeit Drugs

November 2016: A Utah-based drug counterfeiting operation shipped 100 counterfeit alprazolam pills to a customer in Mississippi.¹¹

September 2014: A Mississippi woman received a life sentence after she convinced an Atlanta-area resident to come to Jackson for illegal silicone injections. The victim died eight days after receiving the injections.¹²

November 2010: Over a ten-month-long period, undercover agents purchased counterfeit drugs, including fake painkillers, antibiotics, and birth control, from convenience stores across the state.¹³
Footnotes


