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## Texas officials investigating fake antibiotics

ASSOCIATED PRESS | April 29, 2011 | Updated: April 29, 2011 5:30am

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AUSTIN — Texas health officials have opened an investigation on several over-the-counter products they say are labeled to appear as antibiotics but have no active ingredients to fight infections.

The **Texas Department of State Health Services** said Friday the products are marketed primarily to Hispanic consumers. The agency says the names of the products are similar to well-known antibiotics such as Amoxicillin.

Mexico passed a law in 2010 to ban the sale of antibiotics without a doctor's prescription. Before that, "people would just use an old prescription whenever they had similar symptoms," says **Jorge Navarro**, a spokesperson for the **U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission**. He urged Mexicans to stay away from non-prescribed antibiotics. "Mexicans can go to the health services at our consulates," he added.

Officials say the products are available in capsule, syrup and other forms and sold under names such as Amoxilina, Pentrexilina, Ampitrexyl, Citricillin, Amoximiel and Pentreximil.

**Carrie Williams**, a press officer with the DSHS said they are investigating in coordination with the **Food and Drug Administration** the source of the products and whether they also are found in other states. The DSHS is asking retailers to take the products off the shelves and consumers to discard any they might have purchased.

"We are in the very beginning of the investigation", Williams said. At this point, the DSHS is not sure whether the products are dangerous. Williams said that in any case it is not safe to delay treating an illness that requires antibiotics.

The investigation started after doctors in an **Austin hospital** reported that several children were given these products by their parents.



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