35 Nevada Doctors Linked to Fake Drug Rings

Counterfeit cancer drugs have touched Nevada as well. 35 different medical practices in Nevada 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 to Nevada residents. In January 2018, law enforcement arrested a man attempting to complete the sale of ten pounds of fentanyl at a gas station in North Las Vegas. In November 2018, a Henderson woman pleaded guilty to killing another woman with the counterfeit oxycodone pills she was selling.

Opening the U.S.’s Closed Drug Supply Chain Puts Nevada Lives at Risk of Serious Injury or Death.

Fake Cancer Drug Crisis

Washoe County, May 2016: Multiple reports received of counterfeit oxycodone pills believed to be made with fentanyl.

Las Vegas, January 2017: Owner of Candy Color Lenses imprisoned for selling non-sterile fake contact lenses from Asia.

2012–2015: Twenty-one medical practices received warning letters from the FDA about purchasing cancer medications from unlicensed foreign sources.
Fentanyl and Counterfeit Pills Made with Fentanyl

August 2019: “Oxygod” Wyatt Pasek sentenced to 17 and one-half years for manufacturing and selling counterfeit oxycodone pills made with fentanyl. Authorities intercepted at least one package of pills en route to customers in Nevada.1

March 2019: Angel Garcia Flores of Las Vegas received a 57-month prison sentence after he pleaded guilty to distribution of fentanyl. Authorities arrested Flores with nearly 10 pounds of fentanyl at a mid-day drug deal taking place at a gas station with other customers present.2

November 2018: Tianna Christina Cordova of Henderson pleaded guilty to selling the fentanyl-laced counterfeit oxycodone and hydrocodone that killed a woman in March 2017.3 Cordova was sentenced to 10 years in prison in July 2019.4

May 2018: Randy Ray Paulsen received a 144-month prison sentence for his participation in the attempted sale of a one-pound mixture of furanyl fentanyl and U-47700 found inside a washing machine at a local laundromat.5

May 2017: Data from the state’s health department indicated that opioid-related hospitalizations increased 150% from 2013 to 2015.6

May 2016: Counterfeit oxycodone pills were reported multiple times in Washoe County.7

Black Market and Counterfeit Cancer Drugs

April 2015: The FDA warned five Nevada medical practices and more than 270 nationwide to stop buying drugs from Gallant Pharmaceuticals, which sold more than 39 non-FDA approved medications.8

2012–2013: The FDA warned seven Nevada doctors offices and more than 500 across the country to stop buying from CanadaDrugs.com subsidiaries that sold American doctors counterfeit Avastin.9

May 2013: The FDA warned 780 medical practices, nine in Nevada, to stop doing business with unlicensed drug seller Medical Device King, which sold 31 non-FDA approved medications, including counterfeit Avastin.10

Misbranded and Counterfeit Botox

July 2018: Kelly Luanne Schaible of Henderson pleaded guilty to selling over $2.3 million worth of misbranded cosmetic injectables.11

March 2016: The FDA warned 11 Nevada 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.12

July 2013: The FDA warned three doctors in Nevada to stop purchasing fraudulent versions of Botox sold by Online Botox Pharmacy, Onlinebotox.com, and Onlinebotox.13

March 2009: A Las Vegas doctor and his wife were sentenced to federal prison for injecting clients with non FDA-approved Botox that was labeled “For research purposes only, not for human use.”14

Other Drugs

January 2017: Dmitriy V. Melnik, the owner of Las Vegas-based Candy Color Lenses, was sentenced to 46 months for selling tens of thousands of customers counterfeit and misbranded contact lenses, some of which were contaminated with bacteria, from suppliers in Asia.15

September 2014: Las Vegas pharmacologist Balbir Bhogal was indicted on multiple accounts related to trafficking in counterfeit drugs and importing and distributing controlled substances and misbranded drugs.16 Bhogal, who was supplying the pills to an illegal Internet pharmacy based in Costa Rica that catered to U.S. customers, was sentenced to three years probation and to forfeit $15,705 in October 2016.17

April 2011: A Las Vegas resident died after an unlicensed doctor injected her with a gel during a buttocks enhancement procedure.18


