


# New Hampshire Must Guard Against Fake Medicine

## COUNTERFEIT PILLS ARE A PROBLEM IN NEW ENGLAND AND NEW HAMPSHIRE IS NO EXCEPTION.



In March 2021, within days of the Drug Enforcement Administration warning that **fake Adderall made of methamphetamine** had been found across the state, news broke that a worker at a care facility in Northfield had poisoned two children by substituting counterfeit pills for their Ritalin in 2020. In 2018 and 2019, law enforcement shut down **multi-state drug trafficking rings that sold fentanyl pills and illicit drugs** across New England, and charged a dealer in Rochester who sold counterfeit fentanyl pills to an informant. State Police first made **substantial seizures of fake oxycodone made of fentanyl** in 2017.

**Northfield, December 2020: Two children suffered serious bodily harm when a care facility worker replaced their ADHD pills with counterfeits.**



**Salem, September 2018: An infant was hospitalized after ingesting a counterfeit Percocet made with fentanyl in his home.**



**New Ipswich, April 2018: A couple sentenced for distributing illegally imported painkillers, tranquilizers, and other prescription drugs.**



### New Hampshire has seen other counterfeit medicines, too.



A New Ipswich couple was sentenced in 2018 for **importing and selling controlled medicines** across the U.S.



Between 2012 and 2016, the **U.S. Drug Administration warned nine doctors and medical offices** in New Hampshire for purchasing misbranded medicines from known suppliers of counterfeit drugs.



New Hampshire's residents should not have to worry about whether the medicines they take are safe, genuine and effective. Protect them by supporting and advocating to protect our closed U.S. drug supply chain.

# COUNTERFEIT AND BLACK MARKET DRUG INVESTIGATIONS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE, 2011-2021

BASED ON REPORTED INVESTIGATIONS.

## FENTANYL AND COUNTERFEIT PILLS MADE WITH FENTANYL

- October 2020:** Prosecutors in the sentencing phase against fentanyl-pill kingpin Aaron Shamo stated in a court document that the defendant shipped fake fentanyl pills to every single state.<sup>1</sup>
- December 2019:** The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) arrested more than 600 people and seized 75 kilograms of illicit drugs, including 7,800 fentanyl pills, to shut down a drug trafficking operation that had been working across Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island.<sup>2</sup>
- January 2019:** Investigators seized over 27 kilograms of fentanyl and arrested 45 people affiliated with a Massachusetts-based drug ring that was bringing fentanyl into New Hampshire.<sup>3</sup>
- September 2018:** A nine-month old in Salem was hospitalized for fentanyl exposure after ingesting a counterfeit Percocet in his home.<sup>4</sup>
- August 2018:** Rochester resident Andrew Lynch pleaded guilty to selling 190 counterfeit pills made to look like 30-milligram oxycodone pills to an undercover DEA agent. Testing showed that the pills contained fentanyl and heroin.<sup>5</sup>
- April 2018:** 15 New Hampshire residents were among 45 indicted for fentanyl trafficking. Law enforcement seized over 30 kilograms of suspected fentanyl while executing arrest and search warrants.<sup>6</sup>
- April 2018:** State officials announced that 483 people died in New Hampshire from drug overdoses in 2017 and fentanyl was a contributing factor in 350 of those deaths.<sup>7</sup>
- August 2017:** Bryan Franklin of Penacook received a ten-year federal prison sentence after he was found with over 750 grams of fentanyl.<sup>8</sup>
- August 2017:** State police issued a public warning after seizing large quantities of counterfeit oxycodone made with fentanyl.<sup>9</sup>
- February 2017:** A ten-year prison sentence was handed down to Jeannette Hardy of Manchester for drug distribution.<sup>10</sup> Law enforcement seized 1.8 kilograms of fentanyl from her apartment in June 2015. Also charged in this case was Zakee Stuart-Holt. He received a sentence of over 17 years in November 2016.<sup>11</sup>
- August 2016:** Derry man Anthony Barth arrested after he attempted to sell approximately 500 grams of fentanyl to a confidential informant. In January 2018, he received a 14-year prison sentence.<sup>12</sup>

## BLACK MARKET AND COUNTERFEIT CANCER DRUGS

- April 2015:** The FDA sent warning letters to two New Hampshire doctors and more than 270 nationwide to stop buying drugs from Gallant Pharmaceuticals, which sold more than 39 non-FDA approved medications.<sup>13</sup>
- May 2013:** The FDA warned 780 medical practices, including one doctor's office in New Hampshire, to stop doing business with unlicensed drug seller Medical Device King, which had sold 31 non-FDA approved medications, including counterfeit Avastin.<sup>14</sup>

## MISBRANDED AND COUNTERFEIT BOTOX

- March 2016:** The FDA warned five New Hampshire 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.<sup>15</sup>
- July 2013:** The FDA warned one medical practice in New Hampshire to stop purchasing fraudulent versions of Botox sold by Online Botox Pharmacy, Onlinebotox.com, and Onlinebotox.<sup>16</sup>

## OTHER COUNTERFEIT DRUGS AND DEVICES

- March 2021:** DEA officials warned that they had seized counterfeit Adderall made with methamphetamine across New Hampshire.<sup>17</sup>
- December 2020:** A residential care facility worker in Northfield caused two children serious bodily harm when he stole their ADHD medication and replaced it with counterfeit pills that contained an unknown substance.<sup>18</sup>
- April 2018:** A New Ipswich couple received sentences for their roles in distributing millions of misbranded drugs to customers. Pills the couple sold included hydrocodone, Percocet, Valium, Xanax, Adderall, Ritalin, Ativan, Ambien, tramadol, Soma, sildenafil, and tadalafil.<sup>19</sup>
- August 2015:** Safety officials sent out a statewide alert after discovering suspected counterfeit tourniquets being used by emergency responders in North County. One tourniquet broke as it was being used on a motorcycle accident victim.<sup>20</sup>
- August 2011:** Hooksett resident Esilane Garcia was sentenced to ten months of time served and two years of supervised release after pleading guilty to smuggling non-FDA-approved diet pills into the United States.<sup>21</sup>

## Footnotes

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