



Narendar Yasa, Founder and CEO
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April 22, 2024

Dear Mr. Yasa,

I am the Executive Director of the Partnership for Safe Medicines (PSM), a leading advocacy organization for drug supply chain safety, and an expert on counterfeit and diverted medicine in America.

I write to you today to address a concern we see in online pharmacy marketplaces that could endanger the safety of the drug supply chain. PSM is concerned that counterfeit and diverted medication might be sold on online pharmacy-to-pharmacy platforms by criminals looking to take advantage of the Drug Supply Chain Security Act exceptions for either “specific patient need” or because of a “public health emergency.” In these situations, sellers do not have to provide product tracing details to the purchasing pharmacy.

Just this past year in [USA v Boris Aminov](#), two individuals were indicted for selling \$9 million of diverted medications, including \$3.5mm in HIV medications, to unsuspecting pharmacies via unspecified online marketplaces¹.

Based on our research, we have ascertained that other online platforms such as Amazon and eBay have significant partnerships in place with pharmaceutical manufacturer brandholders. The manufacturers’ brand protection teams provide a value add to the platform by monitoring it for listings of suspect product. We understand that these two platforms provide, among other things:

- Logins for the brand protection teams that allow them to see and flag listings of counterfeit products for platform follow-up;
- Methods for identifying sellers through platform registration information to conduct diversion investigations;
- Access to past sales data; and
- Access to live platform partners for escalating problematic listing issues.

PSM would like to understand the important role that online pharmacy marketplaces are playing in protecting the drug supply from counterfeiters. You can answer our questions in a letter, email, or even a phone call back to us. To schedule a phone call, reach out to our executive director Shabbir Imber Safdar at shabbir@safemedicines.org or 415-630-3736.

¹ https://www.safemedicines.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/u.s._v._aminov_et_al_indictments.pdf

Questions

Yes	No	Question
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does your platform provide logins for the drug manufacturer brand protection teams that allow them to see listings to identify suspect product?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If you do provide such access, do these accounts include the ability to flag listings of suspect products for follow-up or suspension by the platform?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If you do provide such access, do you provide access to past sales data so that drug manufacturer brand protection teams can identify sellers who may be trafficking in suspect product? If so, please explain how a brand protection team can access this.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If you do provide such access, do you also provide a live human contact for drug manufacturer brand protection teams to escalate listings that they suspect may be selling illegitimate product? If so, please identify this contact.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you have any screening programs in place that proactively verify DSCSA data for product sales listings? If so, please describe.

We are available to discuss these questions at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Shabbir Imber Safdar
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 415-630-3736