

# Pharmaceutical Anti-Counterfeiting Anti-Diversion Flash Report

This report provides a summary of pharmaceutical counterfeiting and diversion focused articles tracked during the month of March 2010. Provided are article titles along with hot links. All links are maintained by 3rd party websites and, therefore, availability may change. Here are the headlines:

*The \$75 Million Pharmaceutical Heist, Newsweek*

Eli Lilly and Co.'s Enfield, Conn., warehouse suffered a loss of about \$75 million worth of antidepressant pills and other prescription drugs in what is believed to be one of the largest and skillfully planned prescription drug heists ever.

<http://www.newsweek.com/id/235071>

*Prescription-Drug Thefts From Warehouses Or Trucks On The Increase, The Hartford Courant*

The black-market demand for expensive, brand-name prescription and over-the-counter drugs has burglars breaking into drug distribution warehouses or hijacking tractor-trailers and transport vehicles at gunpoint.

<http://www.courant.com/news/health/hc-stolen-drugs-0328.artmar28.0.4323395.print.story>

*Drug heist showcases need for RFID and other track-and-trace technologies, Telecoms and Software News*

With the many recent incidents of drug thefts, concerns are raised about supply chain security, product tampering and counterfeiting, and where the medications will end up.

<http://www.ovum.com/news/euronews.asp?id=8513>

*Arrests made in counterfeit Alli case, SecuringPharma.com*

Federal authorities say two Chinese nationals arrested face charges for manufacturing and importing counterfeit weight-loss medication with ingredients that could cause headaches, anxiety and chills.

<http://www.securingspharma.com/40/articles/422.php>

*US and Europe At Risk from Substandard Medicines*, Pharmtech.com

A new report by the Stockholm Network, *Keeping Medicines Safe* cites examples and case studies from China, India, Brazil, Argentina and Turkey to demonstrate the lethal effects that counterfeit and substandard drugs can have on public health.

<http://blog.pharmtech.com/2010/03/03/us-and-europe-at-risk-from-substandard-medicines/>

*Haul of Counterfeit Meds in Bristol*, The Online Clinic

A raid in Bristol results in the seizure of a large load of counterfeit medications worth £180,000.

<http://www.theonlineclinic.co.uk/news/2010/03/02/HaulOfCounterfeitMedsInBristol.aspx>

*FDA Criminal Division to Increase Prosecutions*, The Wall Street Journal

As part of an effort to refocus its criminal division, an FDA official said the agency has the authority to prosecute corporate executives for criminal actions within their companies under a provision called "strict liability."

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703862704575099942109582112.html?mod=WSJ\\_latestheadlines#](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703862704575099942109582112.html?mod=WSJ_latestheadlines#)

*Two Indicted for Distributing Counterfeit Pharmaceuticals*, DEA

A United States Attorney announces that a Pennsylvania man and a foreign national in separate case are indicted by a federal grand jury for distributing counterfeit pharmaceuticals.

<http://www.justice.gov/dea/pubs/states/newsrel/2010/houston022610.html>

*Fake Viagra made of bird droppings, scientist warns*, Earthtimes.org

New Zealand customs seize fake Viagra and according to scientist, the main ingredient was guano – bat and bird droppings.

<http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/312716.fake-viagra-made-of-bird-droppings-scientist-warns.html#>

*Gambling with life*, The Daily Herald

Medical practitioners stress buying medications on the streets risk purchasing counterfeits, medication that could contain harmful or active ingredients in incorrect proportions; or products that contain no active ingredients at all.

<http://www.thedailyherald.com/islands/1-news/1115-gambling-with-life-.html>

*One million sex pills seized by Customs*, The National

A routine inspection prompted officers to launch an investigation which resulted in a one-and-a-half ton seizure of illegal Viagra-type sexual enhancement pills.

<http://www.thenational.ae/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100310/NATIONAL/703099795/1010>

*Online medicine comes with risks*, The Montreal Gazette

Many of the websites selling medications are operating outside of the country while claiming to be Canadian. By doing this, counterfeiters are attempting to avoid Canadian inspection and regulations.

<http://www.montrealgazette.com/business/Online+medicine+comes+with+risks/2638849/story.html>

*Despite law, drug safety still a concern at FDA*, Reuters,

FDA officials say more work is needed to address lingering concerns about drug risks, including contaminated medications, counterfeit pills and other safety issues.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE62953P20100310>

*Major Prescription Drug Bust*, waaytv.com

Being called one of the biggest prescription drug busts in north Alabama's history, an investigation uncovers 11,000 methadone pills, 3,000 tablets of Soma, 2,500 of Phentermine, 200 of Oxycontin, 1,000 Dilaudid pills in addition to 15 pounds of marijuana and \$180,000 in cash.

<http://www.waaytv.com/Global/story.asp?S=12174226>

*Despite probe, prescription drug abuse worsening, authorities say*, The Washington Post

According to federal and local investigators, drug abuse continues to worsen in Northern Virginia and throughout the Washington region as demand for painkillers rises among teenagers and others.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/13/AR2010031302387\\_3.html?hpid=moreheadlines&sid=ST2010031302814](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/13/AR2010031302387_3.html?hpid=moreheadlines&sid=ST2010031302814)

*Czech customs officers seize counterfeit Viagra from India*, Prague Daily Monitor

Czech customs officers have seized 5200 tablets of counterfeit medicines to treat erectile dysfunction, Viagra and Cialis, in a parcel from India, the largest consignment of this kind in several years.

<http://praguemonitor.com/2010/03/25/czech-customs-officers-seize-counterfeit-viagra-india>

*Don't let counterfeits distract from substandard drugs, says think tank*, SecuringPharma.com

A report entitled *Keeping Medicines Safe* suggests that governments around the world need to acknowledge the extent to which the production of substandard drugs and counterfeiting is a real threat to public health and safety.

<http://www.securingspharma.com/40/articles/402.php>