



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ★ DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
DIVERSION CONTROL DIVISION

Diversion Enforcement News

Rite Aid Corporation and Affiliates Agree to Settle False Claims Act and Controlled Substances Act Allegations Related to Opioid Dispensing



On July 10, 2024, the Justice Department announced that Rite Aid Corporation along with 10 subsidiaries and affiliates agreed to settle the government's allegations under the False Claims Act (FCA) and Controlled Substances Act (CSA). Under the settlement, the government will be paid \$7.5 million.

"America continues to live through the worst opioid epidemic we have ever seen. Rite Aid contributed to this crisis by ignoring obvious red flags and dispensing hundreds of thousands of unnecessary opioids," said DEA Administrator Anne Milgram.

The government's complaint alleges that from May 2014 through June 2019, Rite Aid knowingly dispensed at least hundreds of thousands of unlawful prescriptions for controlled substances that lacked a legitimate medical purpose. These unlawful prescriptions included the dangerous, highly diverted combination of drugs known as "the trinity" and excessive quantities of opioids, such as highly addictive oxycodone and fentanyl.

Read more about the [settlement](#).

DEA Reaches out to Veterinarians at National Conference

Diversion investigators met with veterinarians, vet techs, and office managers at the American Veterinary Medical Association Conference last month to answer important questions on record keeping, drug destruction, and other important issues.



Nearly 100,000 veterinarians are registered with the DEA.

DEA-registered veterinarians can legally prescribe, dispense, and administer controlled substances, ensuring that these potent medications are used appropriately and safely in animal care.



Help DEA Make Every Day Take Back Day

Every Day is Take Back Day
Dispose of unneeded medication

17,000 locations nationwide

- Clean them out.
- Take them back.
- All year long.

DEA NATIONAL TAKEBACK

DEA has registered a record number of authorized collectors – pharmacies and medical facilities – to collect unused and unwanted prescription drugs year-round. Learn how you can become an authorized collector to help the community dispose of old pharmaceutical drugs at locations nationwide.

There are already close to 17,000 pharmacies and hospitals helping to clean out medicine cabinets throughout the year. In addition, many police departments provide year-round drop boxes.

Visit <https://www.dea.gov/everyday-takeback-day> and learn what you can do to stop drug misuse before it starts.

DEA also hosts a bi-annual National Prescription Drug Take Back Day to turn in unused, unwanted medications. Stay tuned for information on the fall Take Back Day.

New DEA Resource Alerts Pharmacists to Prescription Fraud

Pharmacists are often the first line of defense in detecting prescription fraud. Often, criminals will use fake prescriptions to obtain controlled substances and then sell them on the streets.

The abuse of prescription drugs – especially controlled substances – is a serious social and health problem in the United States today.

Everyone has a role to play to keep our communities healthy and safe. Healthcare professionals share responsibility for solving the prescription drug abuse and diversion problem.

For more information, read the [Pharmacist's Guide to Prescription Fraud](#).



Medication for Opioid Use Disorder



DEA is committed to making medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) readily and safely available to anyone in the country who needs it. Practitioners can prescribe these life-saving medications to treat an opioid use disorder.

Check out an [informational video](#) and [read more](#) on MOUD.

Stay tuned for a new video series on what it takes to become a prescriber and keep our communities healthy and safe.

DEA Holds Discussions about Tableting and Encapsulating Machines

Pill presses are often used in the production of fake pills which often contain fentanyl, methamphetamine, and other deadly drugs. Many pill presses have been imported into the U.S. directly from China via e-commerce platforms and have not been reported to DEA.

In July, DEA hosted small group discussions with 37 stakeholders representing manufacturers of controlled and non-controlled substances and manufacturers and distributors of regulated machines who provided valuable feedback regarding the regulations for regulated machines.

Transactions of tableting and encapsulating machines (aka “pill presses”) are regulated transactions per 21 U.S.C. § 830 requiring recordkeeping and reporting on the distribution, importation and exportation of pill press machines.

[Read more](#) about DEA’s efforts to tackle the nationwide drug overdose and poisoning crisis in stopping the illicit sales of pill presses.



DEA Reaches out to Dentists at National Conference



Diversion investigators from DEA Headquarters and the Las Vegas District Office met with dentists and dental students at the National Dental Association’s Annual Conference. DEA provided information about the MATE training requirement and other resources available on DEA’s website.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 enacted a new one-time, eight-hour training requirement for all DEA-registered practitioners, except veterinarians, on the treatment and management of patients with opioid or other substance use disorders.

Beginning on June 27, 2023, all DEA-registered and new medical practitioners are required to attest to completion of the training when renewing or completing an initial registration.





DEA's Diversion Control Division strives to prevent, detect, and investigate the diversion of controlled pharmaceuticals and listed chemicals from legitimate sources. When the safety and health of the American people is in jeopardy, DEA takes action against those who violate the law.

Avantor, Inc. Agrees to Pay \$5.325 Million to Resolve Allegations of False Claims for Overcharging Federal Agencies and Allegations of DEA Violations and Lack of Compliance as to Listed Chemicals

July 31, 2024

Philadelphia Area Doctor Agrees to Resolve Civil Allegations of Improper Prescribing

July 22, 2024

Pottstown Pharmacy Agrees to Resolve Civil Allegations of Improper Dispensing of Controlled Substances

July 17, 2024

Manchester Man Arrested for Manufacturing and Trafficking Counterfeit Pharmaceutical Pills

July 9, 2024

Jefferson County Doctor, Staffers Accused of Conspiracy, Health Care Fraud

July 8, 2024

Rite Aid Corporation and Affiliates Agree to Settle False Claims Act and Controlled Substance Act Allegations Related to Opioid Dispensing

July 10, 2024

OptumRx Agrees to Pay \$20M to Resolve Allegations that It Filled Opioid Prescriptions in Violation of the Controlled Substances Act

June 27, 2024



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