



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

Diversion News: January 2025

Justice Department Files Lawsuit against CVS Alleging it Filled Fake Prescriptions

The Justice Department alleges that CVS Pharmacy Inc. and various subsidiaries (collectively, CVS) filled unlawful prescriptions in violation of the Controlled Substances Act and sought reimbursement from federal healthcare programs for unlawful prescriptions in violation of the False Claims Act. CVS is the country's largest pharmacy chain, with more than 9,000 pharmacies across the United States.

The complaint alleged that from Oct. 17, 2013, to the present, CVS knowingly filled prescriptions for controlled substances that lacked a legitimate medical purpose, were not valid, and/or were not issued in the usual course of professional practice.

"CVS is alleged to have dispensed large amounts of highly addictive opioid medications to persons they knew had no medical need for them," said DEA Administrator Anne Milgram. "Simply put, they put profits over their obligation to keep their customers safe. A pharmacy is the final step in the pharmaceutical distribution process that is in place to keep customers safe. In the fight against the opioid epidemic, DEA will continue to be relentless in holding those accountable who violate our drug laws and place our communities in danger whether they are a criminal cartel or large pharmacy chain."

[Read more](#) about the lawsuit.

DEA Establishes Controlled Substances Quotas for 2025

In December 2024, DEA published the aggregate production quotas (APQ) for schedule I and schedule II controlled substances for calendar year 2025. The [final order](#) also establishes the assessment of annual needs (AAN) for ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, and phenylpropanolamine, known as list I chemicals.

The APQ and AAN establish the maximum quantities of these substances and chemicals that may be manufactured in the United States each calendar year to provide for the estimated medical, scientific, research, and industrial needs of the country. This pertains to lawful export requirements, and the establishment and maintenance of reserve stocks. These quotas do not include imports of controlled substances for use in industrial processes.

To set certain quotas, DEA calculated a national diversion estimate for each of the five covered controlled substances. See the entire list of [established 2025 quotas](#) and learn more about the [APQ process](#) and [latest developments](#).

Enhanced Controlled Substance Ordering System Launched December 9, 2024

The updated Controlled Substance Ordering System (CSOS) provides increased security without impacting customer service or patients' access to medications.

The system – used by DEA-registered pharmaceutical drug manufacturers and distributors, pharmacies, hospitals, and others – allows for the electronic ordering of Schedule I through V controlled substances.



An estimated 190,000 of DEA's more than 2.1 million registrants utilize CSOS. Learn more about upcoming [training opportunities](#).


Dispose of Unused, Unwanted Medications Year-Round

**Every Day is
Take Back Day**

Dispose of unneeded
medication

Nearly 17,000
locations
nationwide

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



DEA NATIONAL
TAKEBACK

Clean out your medicine cabinets and help prevent drug misuse before it starts. As part of the Every Day is Take Back Day campaign, the community can dispose of old pharmaceutical drugs at locations nationwide.

Nearly 17,000 pharmacies, hospitals, and businesses collect unneeded medications throughout the year. Those locations can be found [here](#). In addition, many police departments provide year-round drop boxes.

Learn more what you can do to make [Every Day Take Back Day](#).

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

DEA Attends American Association of Equine Practitioners Convention



With more than 100,000 veterinarians registered with the DEA, Diversion Control Division staff make it a priority to attend conferences nationwide to answer any questions vets may have.

Last month, DEA travelled to Orlando to attend the American

Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) Convention. Staff was on hand to field questions and answer DEA policy-related questions. The AAEP annual convention and trade show is the world's largest event dedicated to equine practice.



Diversion Control Division Enforcement

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.

West Haven Woman Who Diverted Narcotics from Dying VA Medical Center Patients is Sentenced

Dec. 22, 2024

Former Doctor and Her Wife Sentenced for Fraud and Other Crimes

Dec. 19, 2024

Two Houston Men Sentenced to Federal Prison for Burglarizing Pharmacies in Southern Illinois, Missouri

Dec. 19, 2024



Justice Department Files Nationwide Lawsuit Alleging CVS Knowingly Dispensed Controlled Substances in Violation of the Controlled Substances Act and the False Claims Act

Dec. 18, 2024

Nurse Pleads Guilty to Illegally Obtaining Fentanyl from Hospital

Dec. 16, 2024

San Antonio Man Sentenced to 28 Years in Federal Prison for Armed Pharmacy Robberies

Dec. 13, 2024

Long Island Medical Doctor Convicted of Illegally Distributing Oxycodone Pills

Dec. 11, 2024

Pill Distributor Sentenced to Nine Years in Prison for Trafficking Tens of Thousands of Pills Containing Fentanyl and Meth

Dec. 8, 2024

Court Orders North Carolina Pharmacy to Pay \$500,000 Penalty and Enters Injunction to Prevent Filling Illegal Controlled Substance Prescriptions

Dec. 6, 2024



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