

# **FDA Notice to Physicians**

**Buying drugs from unlicensed sources is *risky* business.**  
*Know your source. Protect your patients.*

**If you purchase drugs from illegal, unlicensed sources (foreign or domestic) you are putting your patients at risk** of consuming drugs that may be unapproved, counterfeit, contaminated, ineffective, or dangerous.

*You are also breaking the law.*

**If you purchase drugs from illegal sources you may be subject to criminal investigation**

by FDA's Office of Criminal Investigations and prosecution by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ).

Since 2012, FDA has notified nearly 3,500 physicians that their drug purchasing practices may be illegal. DOJ has successfully prosecuted more than 95 corporations and individuals, including physicians, for criminal charges related to selling unapproved drug products, or receiving and administering unapproved drug products to patients. These criminal convictions have resulted in jail time and fines of millions of dollars.

**Help prevent unsafe or ineffective drugs from reaching patients.**

You should verify your wholesale drug distributor or other source is properly licensed at [www.fda.gov/licenseddistributors](http://www.fda.gov/licenseddistributors). You should also perform due diligence to ensure that the drugs you purchase are FDA-approved.

Report suspicious activity to FDA's Office of Criminal Investigations at [www.fda.gov/oci](http://www.fda.gov/oci).

**Protect your patients.  
Know the law. It's not worth the risk.**

