

Medical Product Quality Report – COVID-19 Issues

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Centre of Tropical Medicine & Global Health, Nuffield Department of Medicine,
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1. Summary of findings

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have reported on incidents in over 60 countries (see figure 1). The number of PPE incidents has decreased compared to the early months of the pandemic. However new incidents continue. Two incidents involved gloves allegedly coming from Malaysia. Criminals continue to falsify masks and respirators of genuine mask and respirator manufacturers such as 3M and Venus Safety and Health Private Ltd.

Several warning letters were sent by the US FDA to Mexican businesses that try to import methanol contaminated hand sanitisers into the United States.

Even before the emergency use authorization of Regeneron's monoclonal antibody therapy, the dark web was allegedly selling the product. Similarly, the Australian National University found 22 COVID-19 vaccines sold on the dark web. Challenges that come with the arrival of the COVID-19 vaccines or any COVID-19 treatment are likely to increase. As demand outstrips supply, it opens doors to theft, diversion, falsification and substandard products. We remain very concerned at the global risk of substandard and falsified COVID-19 vaccines and urge much more international coordination to mitigate this risk.



Figure 1. Countries with recorded incidents of poor quality medicines and medical products linked to COVID-19 from January to November 2020. IMAGE CREDITS JS MAP BY AMCHARTS¹.

DARK BLUE COUNTRIES ARE COUNTRIES FOR WHICH DATA ARE AVAILABLE IN THE MEDICINE QUALITY MONITORING GLOBE ON INCIDENTS OF POOR QUALITY PRODUCTS LINKED TO COVID-19. ONLY ENGLISH ARTICLES ARE DESCRIBED IN THIS MONTHLY COVID-19 ISSUES. THE DATA ARE GEOGRAPHICALLY HETEROGENEOUS AND AN IMPORTANT CAVEAT IS THAT NO REPORTS FROM A COUNTRY DOES NOT IMPLY THAT MEDICAL PRODUCT QUALITY THERE IS GOOD BUT THAT THERE ARE NO ACCESSIBLE DATA FROM THAT COUNTRY, OR THAT ARTICLES WERE NOT PUBLISHED ON THE ENGLISH GOOGLE NEWS AND THUS NOT INCLUDED IN OUR SYSTEM. SIMILARLY, REPORTS OF POOR QUALITY MEDICAL PRODUCTS IN A COUNTRY DOES NOT IMPLY THAT MEDICAL PRODUCT QUALITY THERE IS UNIVERSALLY GRAVE IN COMPARISON TO ELSEWHERE. COUNTRIES WITH REPORTS SHOULD BE LAUDED FOR FACILITATING SUCH REPORTING.

¹amCharts. Interactive Visited Countries Map. Published 2014. Accessed December 11, 2020. https://www.amcharts.com/visited_countries/

2. Introduction

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the demand for COVID-19 related medical supplies has inevitably ballooned with an increased demand for personal protective equipment (PPE), diagnostics and preventive & curative pharmaceuticals. The high demand and related shortages of genuine products contributes to an increased global risk of substandard and falsified (SF) medical products, for COVID-19 and for many other essential medicines. The media have been reporting diverse examples of SF products flooding the market.

This monthly report aims to collate information and reports in the public domain on the quality of medicinal products that are currently in use, or that are being trialled for COVID-19's prevention or treatment. We also include reports on key subjects such as access, affordability or off label use for COVID-19 if they mention concern of the quality of the products. We do not aim to include discussion of the multiple fraudulent claims and quackery.

We use the terminology for different types of poor quality medical products as defined by the World Health Organisation (WHO, 2017)²:

- **Substandard medical products**
Also called “out of specification”, these are authorized medical products that fail to meet either their quality standards or their specifications, or both.
- **Unregistered/unlicensed medical products**
Medical products that have not undergone evaluation and/or approval by the national or regional regulatory authority for the market in which they are marketed/distributed or used, subject to permitted conditions under national or regional regulation and legislation.
- **Falsified medical products**
Medical products that deliberately/fraudulently misrepresent their identity, composition or source.

We emphasise the difference between the use of the terms ‘falsified’ and ‘counterfeit’ medical products. ‘Falsified’ is a broad term including all the various types of deliberate misrepresentation of a medical product from a public health perspective. The term ‘counterfeit’ is specifically linked to intellectual property rights, ‘trademark counterfeit goods’³ and ‘pirated copyright goods’⁴ as used in the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement.

²Source: World Health Organisation. Appendix 3 WHO MEMBER STATE MECHANISM ON SUBSTANDARD/SPURIOUS/FALSELY-LABELLED/FALSIFIED/COUNTERFEIT (SSFFC) MEDICAL PRODUCTS WORKING DEFINITIONS. In: Seventieth World Health Assembly. ; 2017. Accessed August 14, 2020. https://www.who.int/medicines/regulation/ssffc/A70_23-en1.pdf?ua=1

³*Trademark counterfeit goods*: any goods, including packaging, bearing without authorization a trademark which is identical to the trademark validly registered in respect of such goods, or which cannot be distinguished in its essential aspects from such a trademark, and which thereby infringes the rights of the owner of the trademark in question under the law of the country of importation.

Source: World Trade Organization. Part III — Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights. Accessed August 14, 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/docs_e/legal_e/27-trips_05_e.htm#fnt-14

⁴*Pirated copyright goods*: any goods that are copies made without the consent of the right holder or person duly authorized by the right holder in the country of production, and which are made directly or indirectly from an article where the making of that copy would have constituted an infringement of a copyright or a related right under the law of the country of importation.

The reports presented were mostly extracted from the Medicines Quality Monitoring Globe ([the MQM Globe is accessible on the IDDO website](#)⁵), a system that scrapes online newspapers (referenced in Google News) for early warnings of substandard and falsified medical products. In addition, alerts and reports by national and international organisations are included when captured by the members of the team or shared by colleagues. This report also includes scientific literature and policy documents related to COVID-19 medical products quality identified by manual searches in PubMed and Google Scholar. These will be displayed on the Medicine Quality COVID-19 Surveyor to be released in the coming months. We also include preprint of articles. Please note that preprints should be viewed with additional caution as they have not been peer-reviewed. They should not be relied on to guide clinical practice or health-related behaviour and should not be reported in news media as established information.

Please note the caveats for the lay literature ([MQM Globe disclaimer and caveats are accessible on the IDDO website](#)⁶); we include abstracts and extracts from articles that are subject to a take down policy. If we are contacted by a potential rights-holder who objects to the presence of material, we will remove the material in question from the report and Globe until we have been able to assess the case. Where material is removed for valid reasons of copyright, its removal will be considered as lasting until copyright in the material expires, or until the rights-holder agrees that the material can be reinstated.

This sixth issue of the monthly report 'Medical Product Quality Report – COVID-19 Issues' covers information published during the month of November. The previous issues covered publications from January 1st to October 31st 2020 and are available on the IDDO⁷ and MORU⁸ websites. We also include publications and reports published prior to November 2020 that were missed in the previous issues of the report. We are developing a system for scraping regulatory authority and international organisation websites for alerts. Any remarks or additions to content are greatly appreciated (please write to medicinequality@iddo.org).

Source: World Trade Organization. Part III — Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights. Accessed August 14, 2020. https://www.wto.org/english/docs_e/legal_e/27-trips_05_e.htm#fnt-14

⁵Infectious Diseases Data Observatory. Medicine Quality Monitoring Globe. Web Page. Published 2020. Accessed October 16, 2020. <https://www.iddo.org/medicine-quality-monitoring-globe>

⁶Infectious Diseases Data Observatory. Medicine Quality Monitoring Globe disclaimer and caveats. Web Page. Published 2020. Accessed October 19, 2020. <https://www.iddo.org/medicine-quality-monitoring-globe-disclaimer-and-caveats>

⁷Infectious Diseases Data Observatory. Medical Product Quality Reports. News. Published 2020. Accessed October 10, 2020. <https://www.iddo.org/mq/research/medical-product-quality-report>

⁸MORU Tropical Health Network. Medical Product Quality Report - Covid-19 issues. Medicine Quality. Published 2020. Accessed December 8, 2020. <https://www.tropmedres.ac/research-areas/medicine-quality/medicine-quality>

3. Scientific literature

3.1. General

Alves S, Arendse A, Kannenberg S. **COVID-19 collateral damage: Alcohol rub dermatitis as an emerging problem.** *South African Med J*. Published online November 3, 2020. Accessed November 10, 2020.

<http://www.samj.org.za/index.php/samj/article/view/13135>

Extract. « *Issues with alcohol-based hand sanitisers include the use of non-standard formulas, meaning that methanol is used instead of ethanol, types of alcohol used, such as isopropyl alcohol v. ethanol, and varying amounts of alcohol being used (60 - 80%).* »

[Preprint] Bae J, Gandhi D, Kothari J, et al. **Challenges of Equitable Vaccine Distribution in the COVID-19 Pandemic.** *Preprint*. Published online November 2020. Accessed December 7, 2020.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/346356495_Challenges_of_Equitable_Vaccine_Distribution_in_the_COVID-19_Pandemic

Extract. « *As several COVID-19 vaccine candidates approach approval for human use, governments around the world are preparing comprehensive standards for vaccine distribution and monitoring to avoid long-term consequences that may result from rush-to-market. In this early draft article, we identify challenges for vaccine distribution in four core areas-logistics, health outcomes, user-centric impact, and communication. Each of these challenges is analyzed against five critical consequences impacting disease-spread, individual behaviour, society, the economy, and data privacy.*» [...] « *Insufficient monitoring of the entire supply chain of vaccine production, distribution, and storage also lends itself to attack by bad actors. If a country does not carefully monitor the total pipeline of vaccine distribution, there may be opportunities for theft and counterfeit vaccine delivery.* »

Forman L, Kohler JC. **Global health and human rights in the time of COVID-19: Response, restrictions, and legitimacy.** *J Hum Rights*. 2020;19(5):547-556. doi:10.1080/14754835.2020.1818556

Extract. « *In the midst of this COVID-19 pandemic, as we experienced with the EVD, the health systems vulnerabilities to corruption are clear. Examples of corruption have been found globally in drug and medical equipment procurement and price gouging of essential supplies, such as hand sanitizer and 3M masks. The European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the WHO have both issued public warnings about the increase in the circulation of falsified medicines. The risk of falsified medicines is not only for those products that may potentially treat COVID-19 but also for other drugs and products, particularly when shortages exist. Newton and Bond (2020) explained that the circulation of substandard and falsified products is heightened when shortages are taking place and quality assurance standards are lax. They advanced the importance of information-sharing among countries to ensure that global demand and supplies are being met and noted that countries need to ensure sufficient regulatory controls. They also pointed out that this will be even more critical once valid COVID-19 treatments are available. Governments and health institutions are also under pressure to purchase and import quickly needed medical equipment and supplies for COVID-19 through emergency procurement processes. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has reported a number of bribery cases in the health industry and the risk of the purchase of inferior or falsified goods.* »

Handfield R, Finkenstadt DJ, Schneller ES, Godfrey AB, Guinto P. **A Commons for a Supply Chain in the Post-COVID-19 Era: The Case for a Reformed Strategic National Stockpile.** *Milbank Q*. Published online November 2, 2020:1468-0009.12485. doi:10.1111/1468-0009.12485

Extract. « *Current proposals call for augmenting a system that has failed to deliver the needed response to COVID-19. These proposals do not address the key attributes for pandemic plan renewal: flexibility, traceability and transparency, persistence and responsiveness, global independence, and equitable access. We offer a commons-based framework for achieving the opportunities and risks which are responsive to a constellation of intelligence assets working in and across focal targets of global supply chain risk.* »

Jacobs J, Kühne V, Lunguya O, Affolabi D, Hardy L, Vandenberg O. **Implementing COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) Rapid Diagnostic Tests in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Review.** *Front Med.* 2020;7:557797. doi:10.3389/fmed.2020.557797

Extract. « *the ECDC [European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control] reported several COVID-19 RDT [Rapid Diagnostic Test] devices with fraudulent documentation and unsubstantiated claims. Antibody tests with insufficient clinical performance data have been compiled by the FDA in a “removed” list and the WHO and FDA recently warned against falsified COVID-19 IVDs [In vitro Diagnostic] and reagents. It can be expected that in low-regulated countries such practices will become more frequent and NRLs [national reference laboratories] should inform healthcare workers and the community.* »

Kumar B, Pinky SD. **Addressing economic and health challenges of COVID-19 in Bangladesh: Preparation and response.** *J Public Aff.* Published online November 18, 2020. doi:10.1002/pa.2556

Extract. « *There is a raised concern on the safety of the healthcare workers as Physician's mortality rate in Bangladesh holds the highest in the world (4%). So far a total of 105 doctors died of novel coronavirus while rendering service to the nation as frontline warriors (Sakib, 2020). Shortage of PPE, substandard PPE flooding the market, lack of hospital's infection control measures, proper disposal of safety gears, and lack of training among healthcare professionals are said to have contributed to the high death and infection rates.* »

Mason AN. **Pharmacy Internal Controls: A Call for Greater Vigilance during the COVID-19 Pandemic.** *Pharmacy.* 2020;8(4):216. doi:10.3390/pharmacy8040216

Abstract. « *For businesses that store physical goods, managing product inventories and financial cost accounting controls are critical. Pharmacies are under considerable scrutiny, due to the nature of their merchandise, making internal controls even more vital. Due to the emergence of COVID-19 and government mitigation strategies, the US economy has seen significant macro- and microeconomic effects. COVID-19 has changed the pharmacy working environment, which could theoretically increase rates of employee drug diversion. Therefore, better inventory management could reduce the misuse of pharmaceutical drugs from fraudulent and drug diversion activities. The author explored secondary findings to create a multidisciplinary conceptual analysis of the reasons why internal controls executed with greater diligence may be needed to avoid damaging financial, legal, and health outcomes. The author also provides a review of available internal control methods that can be used to mitigate diversion.* »

Miller FA, Young SB, Dobrow M, Shojania KG. **Vulnerability of the medical product supply chain: the wake-up call of COVID-19.** *BMJ Qual Saf.* 2020;0:bmjqs-2020-012133. doi:10.1136/bmjqs-2020-012133

Introduction. « *The COVID-19 pandemic has brought the long-standing vulnerability of the medical product supply chain into sharp focus. Global shortages of medical products accompanied the global spread of the disease, joined by high prices, the proliferation of suspect dealers and dramatic interventions by governments, philanthropy and industry in oftentimes-unsuccessful attempts to secure solutions. Much attention has focused on personal protective equipment (PPE). But reported shortages have extended much further—to testing supplies, dialysis materials, pharmaceuticals and a wide range of commodities essential for daily care*

delivery—both for patients with and without COVID-19. PPE shortages have received particular attention because they endanger the healthcare workforce. But all product shortages endanger patients due to delays in care, rationing or denial of care, the use of substandard products, or heightened risk of error when using replacement products—risks that extend to increased mortality. Medical product shortages threaten the goal to deliver the right care to the right person at the right time—and have done so for decades. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted more than ever that these systemic risks can no longer be ignored. It may also mean that new solutions have become more possible. »

Moyo G. The Bane of Financial Crime and Corruption amid Covid-19 Pandemic in Zimbabwe. *Glob J Manag Bus Res.* 2020;20(5):37-45. Accessed December 4, 2020. <https://journalofbusiness.org/index.php/GJMBR/article/view/3259>

Abstract. « This article focuses on the bane of corruption and financial crime amid the coronavirus aka Covid-19 pandemic in Zimbabwe. It argues that the arrival of Covid-19 pandemic in the country has further exacerbated the already deep seated and systemic problem of corruption and financial crime in that country. A review of emerging financial crime and corruption since the onset of the pandemic in early 2020 suggests that the public procurement, government relief programs, and the Covid-19 lockdown measures enforcement agents are especially prone to corruption and financial crime. Reports have emerged of public officials, private companies and entrepreneurs abusing the coronavirus crisis to enrich themselves, their political allies, parties, families and friends. This article concludes that accountability and transparency tools coupled with political will could prove to be the key antidotes against financial crime and corruption in Zimbabwe. The data utilized for this study were sourced from Covid-19 trackers and press reports as well as key informant interviews. »

O'Byrne C, Kenny F, Eustace S, Gibbons J. Knowledge of face masks and attitudes to re-sterilisation among healthcare workers. doi:10.21203/rs.3.rs-117257/v1

Abstract. « ()Introduction: COVID-19 was declared a pandemic in March 2020. With the sudden surge in demand for personal protective equipment (PPE), significant concerns regarding the ongoing availability emerged. One solution proposed is re-sterilization of respirator masks and this has been commenced in some parts of the world. On review of the literature, very little is documented regarding knowledge of masks and the attitudes of healthcare workers towards using re-sterilised masks. (*)Methods: A comprehensive questionnaire was used to assess general knowledge and attitudes around facemasks and respirators. (*)Results: There were 190 respondents. There were significant gaps in knowledge and understanding of when particular face masks should be worn. One third had significant concerns about ongoing availability. One third had concerns about the quality of the masks as the pandemic continued. Only 10% of respondents underwent formal face-fitting. 80% of respondents stated they would wear a re-sterilised mask. A further 15% would use a re-sterilised mask but required certain reassurances. 5% of our respondents would not use a re-sterilised mask under any circumstances. (*)Discussion: Ensuring an adequate understanding of face masks is crucial among HCWs and this study highlights a need for further education. It also demonstrates a general acceptability among HCWs towards the use of re-sterilised face masks. »*

[Preprint] Omar I, Debe M, Jayaraman R, Salah K, Omar M, Arshad J. **Blockchain-based Supply Chain Traceability for COVID-19 PPE.** *Preprint.* Published online November 12, 2020:1-17. doi:10.36227/TECHRXIV.13227623.V1

Abstract. « The COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted many industries, in particular the healthcare sector exposing systemic vulnerabilities in emergency preparedness, risk mitigation, and supply chain management. A major challenge during the pandemic was related to the increased demand of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) resulting in critical shortages for healthcare and frontline workers. The lack of information visibility combined with the inability to precisely track product movement within the supply chain requires an robust traceability solution.

Blockchain technology is a distributed ledger that ensures a transparent, safe, and secure exchange of data among supply chain stakeholders. The advantages of adopting blockchain technology to manage and track PPE products in the supply chain include decentralized control, security, traceability, and auditable time-stamped transactions. In this paper, we present a blockchain-based approach using smart contracts to transform PPE supply chain operations. We propose a generic framework using Ethereum smart contracts and decentralized storage systems to automate the processes and information exchange and present detailed algorithms that capture the interactions among supply chain stakeholders. The smart contract code was developed and tested in Remix environment, and the code is made publicly available on Github. We present detailed cost and security analysis incurred by the stakeholders in the supply chain. Adopting a blockchain-based solution for PPE supply chains is economically viable and provides a streamlined, secure, trusted, and transparent mode of communication among various stakeholders. »

Parihar J, Grewal K. Unlocking the mental health crisis in health-care providers during COVID-19 pandemic. Indian J Med Spec. 2020;11(4):173. doi:10.4103/injms.injms_123_20

Extract. « The cause of this psychological burden on the HCPs [health-care providers] is multifold and includes personal, professional, and social reasons. Concerns about the risk of infection to self and their families increased working hours, inadequate safety in the form of shortage or substandard personal protective equipment (PPE), discomfort due to perse wearing PPE or inability to access food, water or lavatory because of being in PPE for long hours, being in quarantine/isolation, and separation from families are some of the reasons for psychological distress among health professionals. It has been observed that those HCPs working in the frontline in COVID-19 or infectious disease wards, intensive care units, and emergency departments and are involved in the direct care of COVID patients are relatively more affected than others. »

Ray A. Managing supply chain aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic in India. Indian Chem Eng. Published online November 16, 2020:1-6. doi:10.1080/00194506.2020.1845989

Abstract. « Technological interventions in times of crises, such as for the COVID-19 pandemic in India, require attention to supply chain aspects for effective delivery of goods and services, especially in critical care. Especially in the initial stages, such delivery is complicated by potential shortages of emergency supplies, which arise due to several reasons. First, suddenly overwhelmed hospitals and local authorities are not equipped to effectively forecast surges in demand. Manufacturing capacities are often constrained by limited availability of raw material in the absence of adequate advance planning. Logistics options for goods movement are significantly reduced. All this is compounded by the shortage of manpower to service production and logistics during extreme lockdown scenarios. A structured approach is shown to deliver tangible benefits and overcome key challenges. »

Extract. « By way of illustration of these fifth vertical (Supply Chain) issues, the market prices of sanitisers shot up severalfold as soon as the number of infected cases began to rise and it was publicly apparent that this was the first line of defense. There were also media reports of spurious sanitisers causing harm to users. In the early days, several hospitals reported stockouts of gowns and N-95 protective masks, along with other PPE. In the absence of approved drugs specific to COVID-19 treatment, initially identified therapeutic options like hydroxychloroquine were in short supply. Respiratory failure being a common mode of death for severely afflicted patients, ventilators and oxygen concentrators were sought at every point of treatment – and there simply was not enough manufacturing capacity in the country. CSIR [Council of Scientific and Industrial research] resolved not only to quickly develop technologies and products to market to bridge the demand-supply gaps, but also to move them quickly into bulk commercial production in a campaign mode with identified industrial partners. »

Raza A, Matloob S, Abdul Rahim NF, et al. **Factors Impeding Health-Care Professionals to Effectively Treat Coronavirus Disease 2019 Patients in Pakistan: A Qualitative Investigation.** *Front Psychol.* 2020;11:2910. doi:10.3389/fpsyg.2020.572450

Extract. « *The participants reported that the PPE that they received was of poor quality. They further briefed that the items (masks, gowns, and shoes) they are receiving are of substandard: HCPs [health-care professionals] infected despite wearing the proper PPEs and following the SOPs. This thing also created a sense of fear among HCPs [Health-care professionals] and doubt about the quality and effectiveness of PPEs.* »

Additional publications prior to November 2020

[Preprint] Sinha M. **COVID-19: State and Local Responses to PPE Shortages.** *SSRN Electron J.* Published online August 17, 2020:152-157. doi:10.2139/ssrn.3675861

Extract. « *As imported masks flooded the U.S. market, the CDC and FDA were unprepared to rapidly assess the quality of individual products. Healthcare systems, first responders, and others have received donations of unfamiliar mask models, many of them donated and with unclear supply chain provenance. In April, through a widely publicized joint effort with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft used the team plane to retrieve over one million KN95 face masks from China; some were reportedly identified to be counterfeit.* »

3.2. Seizures/Surveys/Case Reports/Reviews

Kochgaway L, Nair A, Mitra A, Bhargava S, Singh M. **COVID casualty: Bilateral blindness due to ingestion of spurious sanitizer.** *Oman J Ophthalmol.* 2020;13(3):164. doi:10.4103/ojo.ojo_277_2020

Abstract. « *Intentional ingestion of alcohol-based handrub (ABHR) or sanitizer solution is uncommon. The coronavirus disease-19 pandemic caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 has led to lockdowns being put in place in many countries across the globe and resulted in a surge in ABHR usage to maintain hand hygiene. In this communication, we report the case of a 56-year-old male, a chronic alcoholic who presented during the lockdown period, with acute bilateral loss of vision following ingestion of ABHR. The handrub was found to be a nonstandardized sanitizer with no labels mentioning its constituents. Typically, the ingestion of ABHR solutions results in isopropanol or ethanol poisoning, both of which have low toxicity. Based on the clinical history and findings in our patient, a diagnosis of optic neuropathy due to accidental ingestion of sanitizer containing methyl alcohol as an unlisted ingredient was made. Our report underscores the need for strict guidelines, toxicovigilance, and surveillance systems to be in place to prevent such adulterated ABHRs from being commercially available.* »

Waffo Tchounga CA, Sacre PY, Ciza P, et al. **Composition analysis of falsified chloroquine phosphate samples seized during the COVID-19 pandemic.** *J Pharm Biomed Anal.* Published online November 12, 2020:113761. doi:10.1016/j.jpba.2020.113761

Abstract. « *The proliferation of falsified medicines can cause serious public health issues, particularly in the context of a global pandemic such as the actual COVID-19 pandemic. Our study involved eight chloroquine phosphate medicines seized in Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo and Niger during March and May 2020. These suspect samples were first analyzed in a screening phase using field tools such as handheld Raman spectroscopy (TruScan) and then in a confirmation phase using laboratory tools such as hyperspectral Raman imaging and High*

Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC). The results confirmed the falsified nature of the samples, highlighting the presence of metronidazole at low dose in four samples (16.6, 15.2, 15.2 and 14.5 mg/tab), too low levels of chloroquine in two samples (2.4 and 20.2 mg/tab), and substitution of chloroquine phosphate by paracetamol in one sample (255.7 mg/tab). The results also confirmed that four samples had been adulterated with paracetamol in trace amounts and two of them presented traces of chloramphenicol."

Selam MN. **Hand Sanitizers Marketed in the Streets of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in the Era of COVID-19: A Quality Concern.** *Risk Manag Healthc Policy.* 2020;Volume 13:2483-2487. doi:10.2147/RMHP.S284007

Abstract. « *Hand hygiene is one of the least expensive measures proven to be effective in preventing the transmission of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). When access to handwashing facilities is limited, hand sanitizers offer a viable alternative for hand hygiene. Since the appearance of the first case of COVID-19 in Ethiopia, the demand for hand sanitizers, especially alcohol-based handrubs (ABHRs), was found to be increased. In the country, more than 100 manufacturers are engaged in the production of ABHRs. Besides, there are similar products without labels available for sale in the streets of Addis Ababa for which their nature and source are not clearly known. Generally, hand sanitizers marketed in the streets of the city are against the country's regulatory requirement. The Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority should inspect manufacturers regularly and evaluate the quality of hand sanitizers in the market, especially those obtained from the streets of the city, and take appropriate measures on those products and manufacturers which fail to meet the regulatory requirements.* »

4. International organisations

Europol. **How COVID-19-Related Crime Infected Europe during 2020.**; 2020. Accessed December 8, 2020. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/publications-documents/how-covid-19-related-crime-infected-europe-during-2020>

Extract. « *Counterfeit and sub-standard goods. The pandemic economy has presented new business opportunities for criminals attempting to capitalise on goods high in demand and the fear induced by the COVID-19 virus. The distribution of counterfeit and substandard goods has been one of the key criminal activities during the pandemic. With the onset of the pandemic, the demand for healthcare and sanitary products (masks, gloves, cleaning products, hand sanitizers), as well as personal protective equipment increased significantly. There has been a substantial increase in the sales of substandard masks due to their compulsory use in public spaces and public transport in some of the Member States. Some additional developments, such as the sales of fake 'corona home test kits' and fraudulent pharmaceutical products, advertised as allegedly treating or preventing COVID-19, have been particularly worrying from a public health perspective. Scammers have already offered fake vaccines.* »

Interpol. **COVID-19 Pandemic Protecting Police and Communities: Guidelines for Law Enforcement.** *Second Edition.* .; 2020. Accessed December 14, 2020. <https://www.interpol.int/en/News-and-Events/News/2020/COVID-19-crime-INTERPOL-issues-new-guidelines-for-law-enforcement>

Introduction. « *Since the outbreak of COVID-19, law enforcement has played a crucial role in supporting efforts to control the disease and promote safer communities, as well as combating threats from criminals taking advantage of the outbreak to increase or diversify their activities. As of October 2020, more than one million people had died as a result of COVID-19, including hundreds of police officers. INTERPOL, in accordance with international best practices including the WHO's recommendations, urges its member countries to follow these updated guidelines in order to enhance the safety and effectiveness of law enforcement support in the context of the*

COVID-19 outbreak. These recommendations also incorporate information about increased illegal activity and/or intent across a range of crime areas. It is essential for law enforcement and communities they serve to work together to effectively address the COVID-19 threat. Respecting and protecting individuals' rights and encouraging local cooperation, not only facilitates compliance with law enforcement officers' requests, but also ensures the centrality of human rights in shaping the pandemic response. In the context of COVID-19, INTERPOL is publishing this second edition of the COVID-19 Guidelines for Law Enforcement. Recognizing the response to COVID-19 varies from one country to another due to cultural, economic and social differences, the updated Guidelines seek to integrate best practices drawn from law enforcement across the globe. This guidance from lessons learned is aimed at supporting member countries which are continuing to develop and review their response strategies. »

Extract of the press release. « *Criminal targeting of legitimate vaccines. In addition, as legitimate vaccines move closer to delivery, the targeting of storage facilities and distribution networks by criminal networks can also be expected, and the updated guidelines highlight the need for secure storage and delivery of supplies. "High demand combined with a limited supply will make COVID-19 vaccines the equivalent of liquid gold to organized crime networks as soon as one is available."*(Jürgen Stock, INTERPOL Secretary General). "This is why it is essential for action to be taken now, to both protect the legitimate supply chain for when the vaccine is ready, and to prevent the production and distribution of fake COVID-19 vaccines. "As the global COVID-19 situation continues to evolve, so must the law enforcement response and these updated guidelines provide a useful reference document for frontline officers to protect themselves and the communities they serve," concluded Secretary General Stock. »

World Health Organization. **Technical Specifications of Personal Protective Equipment for COVID-19.**; 2020. Accessed December 8, 2020. https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-PPE_specifications-2020.1

Overview. « *This document provides interim guidance on the quality, performance characteristics and related standards of personal protective equipment (PPE) to be used in the context of COVID-19. This includes WHO Priority Medical Devices, specifically: surgical masks, non-surgical masks, gloves, goggles, face shields, gowns and N95 masks. It is intended for procurement agencies, occupational health departments, infection prevention and control departments or focal points, health facility administrators, biomedical and materials engineering, PPE manufacturers and public health authorities at both national and facility levels. »*

5. Miscellaneous

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations. **Operation Stolen Promise - an initiative targeting COVID-19 Fraud.** Operation Stolen Promise. Published 2020. Accessed December 16, 2020. <https://www.ice.gov/topics/operation-stolen-promise>

Abstract. « *U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) launched Operation Stolen Promise (OSP) in April 2020 to protect the Homeland from the increasing and evolving threat posed by COVID-19-related fraud and criminal activity. Since the Operation's inception, HSI has capitalized upon its unique and expansive federal criminal investigative authorities; its strong intelligence analysis capabilities and resources; its expansive domestic and international footprint; and its robust law enforcement and private sector partnerships to lead the government's investigative response to pandemic-related crime. In the coming months, HSI anticipates that high public demand for access to vaccines and treatments will lead to illegal attempts to introduce counterfeit versions of these items into U.S. and global marketplaces. In response, HSI has initiated Operation Stolen Promise 2.0, which expands the focus of OSP to address this emerging public health threat. »*

6. Lay literature

6.1 Disclaimer & Notes

The information included below is based on the data used to create the Medicine Quality Monitoring Globe⁹ (MQM Globe). It contains publicly available information on the quality of medical products from non-peer-reviewed lay literature. We report the information as it is stated in the articles and can thus be biased towards the authors perspective. It does not necessarily reflect our vision or judgment on the issue. Also, this information usually will not have scientific confirmation. Therefore, the information needs to be interpreted with the greatest caution. We regard the reports as early warnings of potential problems. No or few articles from a region does not imply that the medical product quality there is good, but probably reflects a lack of accessible information. Full disclaimer and caveats can be found at [MQM Globe disclaimer and caveats](#)¹⁰.

The Google News search tool is used to capture data from online news sources. Articles matching the search terms are loaded into a database and curated by trained analysts. Because the Globe system extracts newspaper articles from journals referenced in Google News only, reports not referenced in Google News would not be captured. [Please consult the IDDO website for full methodology](#)¹¹. On the 20th of March, the search terms were adapted to capture more papers on substandard and falsified (SF) medical supplies for COVID-19 from Google News. In addition, the Globe system captures the United States Food and Drug Administration (US FDA) medical products alerts. In the future, we will extend this feature to other regulatory authorities.

The articles discussed in the sections below are available in the Globe-reports, in this report's annexes, or on the online MQM Globe using the report ID (six digits code). The MQM Globe-reports are generated with pre-defined search terms, which enable quick access to reports of (a) COVID vaccines, (b) COVID diagnostics, (c) Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), (d) Sanitisers and disinfectants, (e) COVID medicines, and (f) Ventilators and Positive end-expiratory pressure. Only the relevant articles included in the MQM Globe-reports are selected for the current COVID-19 report. For alerts from January to September the Globe-report for PPE included sanitisers and disinfectants. From October onwards sanitisers and disinfectants are grouped in a separate Globe-report. The search terms applied to search the Globe database to compile the Globe-reports were revised in October & November. Therefore caution is required when interpreting the number of alerts or articles over time.

In this report we share details of articles captured by the MQM Globe that are linked to medical products potentially used in the context of COVID-19 or to active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) that are being trialled for COVID-19 treatment

⁹Infectious Diseases Data Observatory. Medicine Quality Monitoring Globe. Web Page. Published 2020. Accessed October 16, 2020. <https://www.iddo.org/medicine-quality-monitoring-globe>

¹⁰Infectious Diseases Data Observatory. Medicine Quality Monitoring Globe disclaimer and caveats. Web Page. Published 2020. Accessed October 19, 2020. <https://www.iddo.org/medicine-quality-monitoring-globe-disclaimer-and-caveats>

¹¹Infectious Diseases Data Observatory. Medicine Quality Monitoring Globe methodology. Web Page. Published 2020. Accessed October 19, 2020. <https://www.iddo.org/medicine-quality-monitoring-globe-methodology>

and/or prevention. In theory there is a distinction between (a) SF incidents that are due to or increased by the COVID-19 epidemic; and (b) incidents that would have happened in any case. It can be difficult to make the distinction between the two types of incidents and some reports cited below are not directly linked to the treatment of COVID-19. Nevertheless we have included them as they represent crossover risks and help to assess the evolution of the alerts on these medical products over time. Although oxycodone is trialled¹², we do not include issues related to oxycodone as the system would become swamped by reports on its inappropriate use and cases of pills laced with fentanyl due to its wide occurrence on the black market.

For this report, we only included data that were published in English. For articles in French, Spanish, Mandarin, and Vietnamese; please consult the online MQM Globe. We will continuously work to improve the MQM Globe and plan to add in articles in other languages to this report. Any remarks or additions to content are encouraged (please write to medicinequality@iddo.org).

Changes in search strategy since the last Medical Product Quality Report - COVID-19 issues¹³

Non-COVID-19 medicines, containing hidden API(s) that are used or trialled for COVID-19 are no longer included in the COVID-19 reports (e.g. hidden sildenafil in sexual enhancement supplements). Only medicines for which the stated API is used or trialled for COVID-19 are included in the COVID-19 report (e.g. falsified 'Viagra'). The observed decrease of the number of articles (Figure 2-4) in November may, at least partially, be due to this change.

¹²Hashemian SRM. Evaluation the effects of Oxycodone administration on pain control in patients with COVID-19. Iranian Registry of Clinical Trials. Published June 8, 2020. Accessed October 9, 2020. <https://en.irct.ir/trial/48534>

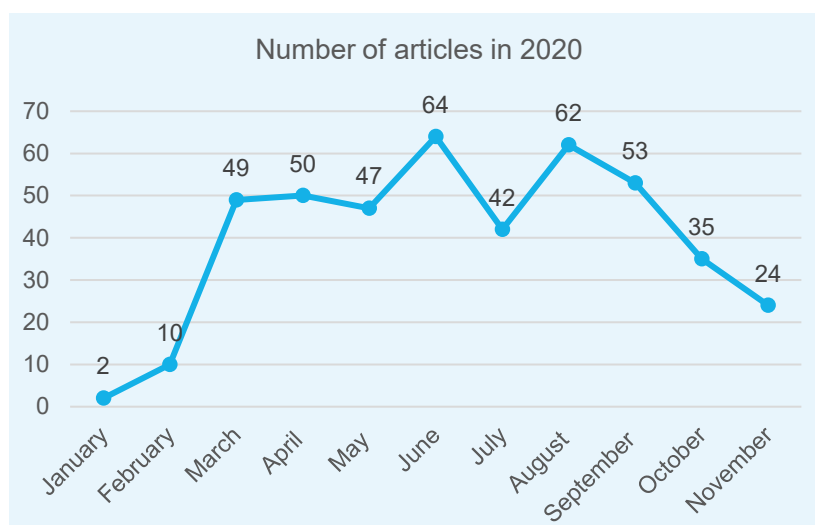
¹³Issues 1 to 5 covering January up to October 2020. Infectious Diseases Data Observatory. Medical Product Quality Reports. News. Published 2020. Accessed October 10, 2020. <https://www.iddo.org/mq/research/medical-product-quality-report>

6.2 Articles on substandard or falsified medical products for COVID-19: main characteristics

Since the beginning of the pandemic we have identified over 431 relevant articles on quality problems of COVID-19 medical products (see figure 2). For November we report on 24 articles linked to SF COVID-19 supplies alerted through the MQM Globe database. Within those articles, 2 alerted on falsified vaccines, 4 on diagnostics, 8 are linked to hand sanitisers and disinfectants, 9 to personal protective equipment (PPE), and 10 report on COVID-19 related treatments (see figure 3 and 4). Since June, the MQM Globe has not identified any reports linked to ventilation equipment.

Figure 2. Number of articles on the Medicines Quality Monitoring Globe linked to substandard or falsified COVID-19 supplies by month. AS SOME ARTICLES DESCRIBE MORE THAN ONE CATEGORY OF PRODUCTS, THE SUM OF ALERTS PER MONTH AS SHOWN IN FIGURE 2 AND 3 MAY EXCEED THE SUM OF ARTICLES PER MONTH OF TABLE 1.

NOTE THAT SINCE NOVEMBER, NON-COVID-19 MEDICINES CONTAINING HIDDEN API(S) THAT IS/ARE USED OR TRIALLED FOR COVID-19 ARE NO LONGER INCLUDED IN THE COVID-19 REPORTS. ONLY MEDICINES FOR WHICH THE STATED API IS USED OR TRIALLED FOR COVID-19 TREATMENT ARE INCLUDED IN THE COVID-19 REPORT. THE OBSERVED DECREASE OF THE NUMBER OF ARTICLES IN NOVEMBER MAY, AT LEAST PARTIALLY, BE DUE TO THIS CHANGE.



As highlighted in the previous issues of the Medical Product Quality Reports, the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the supply chain and criminals were very quick to shift their activities. Products that are only indirectly linked to the COVID-19 crisis are also affected. One of the articles in the MQM Globe illustrates this with a case of stolen flu vaccines in Mexico (report ID 818239). As have several other governments, the Mexican government has warned for a scarcity of flu vaccines due to the pandemic. The article continues that in October, shortly after the announcement, 10,000 doses of flu vaccine were stolen. In November the Federal Commission for the Protection against Sanitary Risk warned about the online illegal sale of 'Vaxigrip', a flu vaccine.

The black market is another example of how criminals are taking advantage of the COVID-19 crisis. Research of the Australian National University found 645 COVID-19 related products listed for sale on the dark web (report ID 803482). One third of the listed products were unique entries (i.e. accounting for products that were repeated on different sites). Half of the unique listed products were sanitizers and PPE, including masks, gloves and gowns. One third of the unique listed products were medicines including hydroxychloroquine, azithromycin and favipiravir. Vaccines and antidotes accounted for six per cent of all listed products.

At the beginning of November the results of the Canadian project Purify were announced (report ID 793903). The Canada Border Services Agency, Health Canada and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police worked together to “*enhance the identification, interception and tracking of unauthorized or counterfeit COVID-19 health-related products in British Columbia*”. Between March 20th and June 30th of this year, 380 shipments were hold including 48,000 COVID-19 test kits, 4.5 million units of PPE, and 33,000 prescription tablets and pills. In the USA, the US Customs and Border Protection seized, amongst others, over 107,000 FDA-prohibited COVID-19 test kits, 750,000 falsified face masks and 11,000 FDA-prohibited chloroquine tablets since last June (report ID 815477).

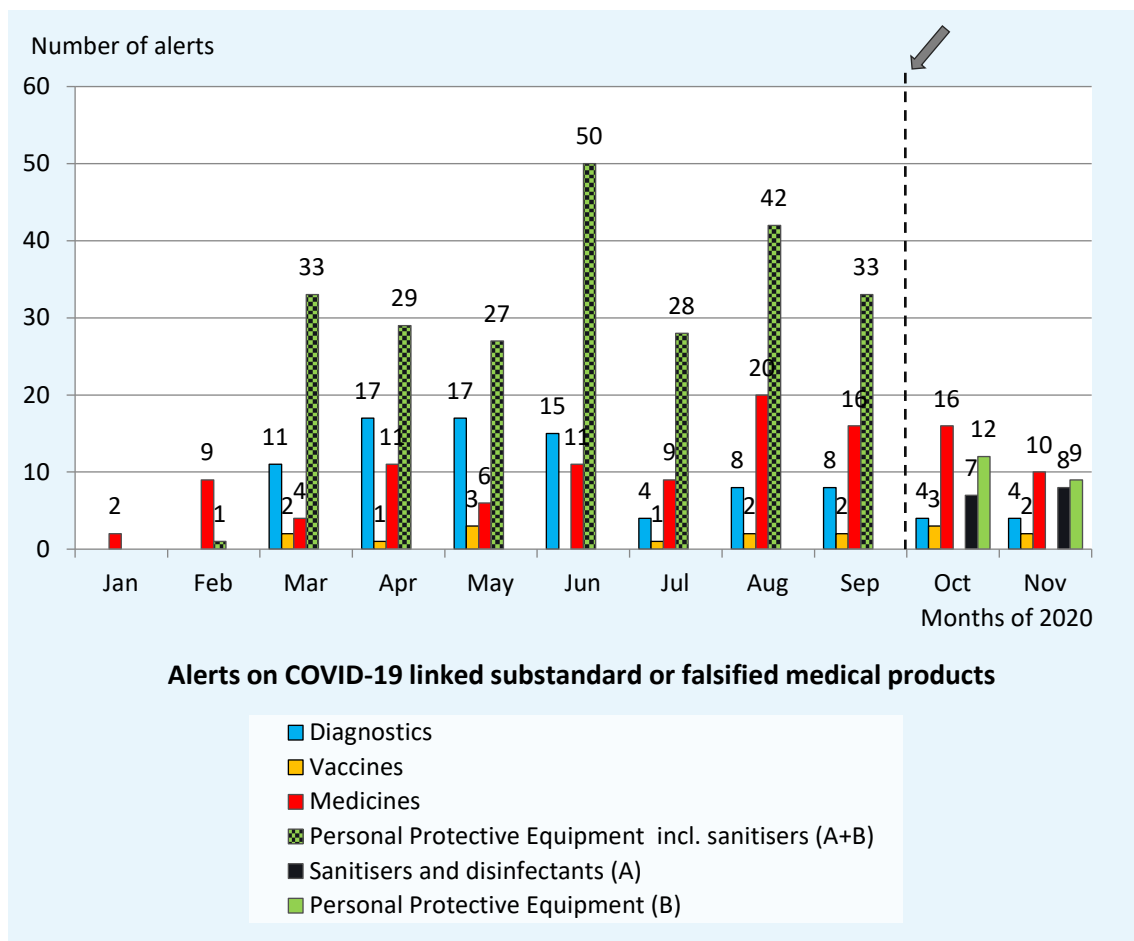


Figure 3. Number of alerts on the Medicines Quality Monitoring Globe by category of products and by month.

ALERTS ARE FOR SUBSTANDARD OR FALSIFIED PRODUCTS LINKED TO COVID-19. AS SOME ARTICLES DESCRIBE MORE THAN ONE CATEGORY OF PRODUCTS, THE SUM OF ALERTS PER MONTH MAY EXCEED THE SUM OF ARTICLES PER MONTH REPORTED IN TABLE 1. THE ARROW INDICATES THE END OF SEPTEMBER WHEN THE CATEGORY OF “PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT INCL. SANITISERS” WAS SPLIT IN TWO DISTINCT CATEGORIES: (A) SANITISERS AND DISINFECTANTS, AND (B) PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT.

NOTE THAT SINCE NOVEMBER, NON-COVID-19 MEDICINES CONTAINING HIDDEN API(S) THAT IS/ARE USED OR TRIALLED FOR COVID-19 ARE NO LONGER INCLUDED IN THE COVID-19 REPORTS. ONLY MEDICINES FOR WHICH THE STATED API IS USED OR TRIALLED FOR COVID-19 TREATMENT ARE INCLUDED IN THE COVID-19 REPORT. THE OBSERVED DECREASE OF THE NUMBER OF ARTICLES IN NOVEMBER MAY, AT LEAST PARTIALLY, BE DUE TO THIS CHANGE.

Alerts on COVID-19 linked substandard or falsified medical products

■ Diagnostics
 ■ Vaccines
 ■ Medicines
 ■ Personal Protective Equipment
 ■ Sanitiser and disinfectants (A)
 ■ Personal Protective Equipment (B) incl. sanitisers (AB)

Number of alerts

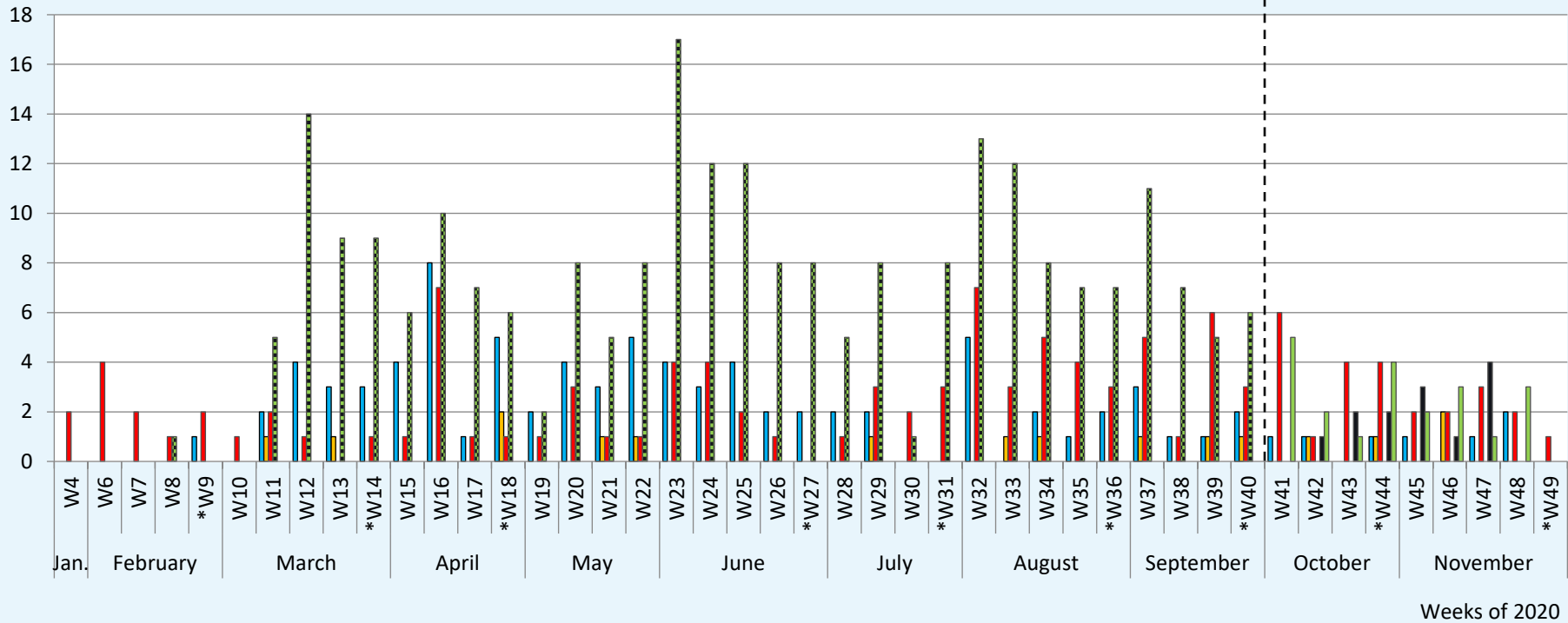


Figure 4. Number of alerts on the Medicines Quality Monitoring Globe by category and by week.

ALERTS ARE FOR SUBSTANDARD OR FALSIFIED PRODUCTS LINKED TO COVID-19. WEEK 4 STARTS ON MONDAY 20TH OF JANUARY 2020 AND WEEK 49 ENDS ON MONDAY 30TH OF NOVEMBER 2020. WEEKS WITH AN ASTERISK ARE OVERLAPPING 2 MONTHS, EACH TIME THE WEEK IS ATTRIBUTED TO THE EARLIEST MONTH. AS SOME ARTICLES DESCRIBE MORE THAN ONE CATEGORY OF PRODUCTS, THE SUM OF ALERTS PER MONTH MAY EXCEED THE SUM OF ARTICLES PER MONTH REPORTED IN TABLE 1. THE ARROW INDICATES THE END OF SEPTEMBER WHEN THE CATEGORY OF “PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT INCL. SANITISERS” WAS SPLIT IN TWO DISTINCT CATEGORIES: (A) SANITISERS AND DISINFECTANTS, AND (B) PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT. **NOTE THAT** SINCE NOVEMBER, NON-COVID-19 MEDICINES CONTAINING HIDDEN API(S) THAT IS/ARE USED OR TRIALLED FOR COVID-19 ARE NO LONGER INCLUDED IN THE COVID-19 REPORTS. ONLY MEDICINES FOR WHICH THE STATED API IS USED OR TRIALLED FOR COVID-19 TREATMENT ARE INCLUDED IN THE COVID-19 REPORT. THE OBSERVED DECREASE OF THE NUMBER OF ARTICLES IN NOVEMBER MAY, AT LEAST PARTIALLY, BE DUE TO THIS CHANGE.

6.3 Vaccines

For the month of November, 2 articles reported on diverted and falsified COVID-19 vaccines, both discussing products sold on the Dark Web. The first article reports on investigations by Bloomberg News (report ID 835199). One vaccine advertisement claimed that a lab technician had access to the “*successful Covid vaccine for \$25,000*”. Another seller is selling vaccines for \$77,000 as the “*only option to stave off death*”. The seller claimed the vaccine was validated by Israel’s Minister for Science and Technology. The second article reports on research of the Australian National University that found 22 COVID-19 vaccines sold on the dark web (report ID 803482). There is not much information on the origin or the composition of the vaccines. Many were said to come from China, for example the alleged Sinovac and Sinopharm vaccines. The average price of the COVID-19 vaccines on the darknet was found to be 5,393 AUD. The most expensive one was sold as “*COVID-19 Antidote for sale*” at 24,598 AUD and is allegedly shipped from the United States. The Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration and Australian Border Force warned about illegal import and supply of vaccines that will lead to civil and criminal penalties.

With the encouraging results of some of the coronavirus vaccines recently released, interest in the vaccines has increased. The supply is limited and the demand is very high, providing a dangerous situation for criminals to operate and seriously undermine public health. Apart from the above described incidents, the MQM Globe¹⁴ holds many articles discussing the challenges of the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccines: describing the possible shortages and the concurrent threats of theft, diversion, price gouging, falsification, and some of the solutions to overcome the challenges such as blockchain technology to monitor the COVID-19 vaccine supply chain.

6.4 COVID-19 diagnostics

In section 6.2 of this report we reported results published on past seizures in the USA (report ID 815477) and Canada (report ID 793903). In mid-November 11,000 rapid COVID-19 tests were seized in an airport in Mexico (report ID 818239). An article from September in India, mentions the withdrawal of SF COVID-19 antibody test kits coming from China after complaints of non-performance of the tests (report ID 810419). Indeed in previous Medical Products Quality Report issues we reported on problems with test kits in Rajasthan and the Punjab¹⁵, but in this article also the state of Karnataka is mentioned.

In the media there has been much discussion about falsified COVID-19 test results and the sales of COVID-19 negative test certificates to students, travellers and others. We do not report on these events because it would lead us to far from the monitoring of substandard and falsified COVID-19 medical products. But it is clear that another

¹⁴Infectious Diseases Data Observatory. Medicine Quality Monitoring Globe. Web Page. Published 2020. Accessed October 16, 2020. <https://www.iddo.org/medicine-quality-monitoring-globe>

¹⁵Infectious Diseases Data Observatory. Medical Product Quality Reports. News. Published 2020. Accessed October 10, 2020. <https://www.iddo.org/mq/research/medical-product-quality-reports>. Rajasthan (report ID 729474) described in the September issue. Punjab (report ID 633611) described in the July issue.

'new' global black market has emerged that is likely to expand and needs to be addressed.

6.5 Personal protective equipment

'Max Care', a company with a registered trademark for rubber gloves, alerted about falsified rubber gloves (report ID 811404). Subsequently the Malaysian Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry seized 80 boxes of falsified Max Care rubber gloves and 1,815 empty boxes. The fraudulent sellers were buying and repacking gloves from overseas. The differences between the genuine and the falsified gloves were related to "*their quality, thickness, colour, packaging and information printed on the box*".

In the UK, the National Health Service sent out a quality alert to general practitioners (GPs) in the South West of England (report ID 816932), as a number of unopened boxes of 'Sanique' protective gloves allegedly contained used gloves. Bright Way Holdings, based in Malaysia, is stated as manufacturer on the box, but the company denied having manufactured or supplied the gloves. Also Medequip, a community equipment supplier, stated they are not involved in the manufacturing or procurement of the gloves. An investigation is continuing. The same article points out other issues that GPs in the UK experienced in recent months: expired face masks, non-sterile gowns that "*did not meet minimum standards for fluid resistance*", and aprons made from "*repurposed bin bags*".

During several routine checks conducted by trading standards officials in the UK in different locations, 1,600 masks were found to be non-compliant (report ID 794413). Problems encountered were masks with false claims of EU approval, false claims on the level of protection, falsified paperwork, and labelling issues such as not providing the name and address of the manufacturer or importer.

In China a man has been found guilty for the production of falsified 3M masks (report ID 816287). The business has existed since May 2018. In November 2019, the Chinese police received reports of online sales of falsified masks and after investigation "*they seized around 50,000 fake items, including 3M labels, packaging and certificates, from a mask manufacturing factory*".

In previous issues we already reported on the multiple incidents with falsified 3M mask worldwide. Incidents have also been reported previously for the Indian mask manufacturer, Venus Safety and Health Private Ltd. During the pandemic the company sent at least 38 legal notices to manufacturers of falsified Venus masks and they registered seven cases of police raids leading to seizures of 47,000 falsified masks (report ID 798410). At the beginning of November Indian police raided a manufacturing unit and seized around 7,500 falsified Venus respirators (report ID 798410). A man was accused of producing masks out of inferior quality cloth and selling the masks branded as Venus or 3M.

Previous issues of the Medicine Product Quality Reports on COVID-19 included several articles on governments that faced problems for sourcing PPE. Now the Belgian government has started legal actions against four suppliers, which together

have supplied 25 million FFP2 masks: IC Pharma, UltraZonic, Life medical and Qingdao LuoTa Management (report ID 802796). The Belgian Ministry of Health did not provide more details. The company UltraZonic, communicated that it had received masks of substandard quality and has started legal actions against its supplier.

6.6 Sanitisers and disinfectants

In mid-November an article reported on the US FDA claiming that Mexican manufacturers are profiting from the COVID-19 pandemic to import low quality hand sanitizers into the USA (report ID 807738). Indeed, in October and November the FDA continued to send out several warning letters about quality concerns of hand sanitizers. The six warning letters retained by the MQM Globe were all destined to Mexican businesses (report ID 791002, 791003, 791004, 807246, 807248, 807313). The goods were detained and refused admission at the USA border because they were adulterated and not approved by the US FDA. All hand sanitisers were stated to contain 70% ethanol but analysis showed that the ethanol content ranged from 0% to only 37% v/v. In addition all the sanitisers contained methanol ranging from 2.1% to 74% v/v. These results raise serious concerns on the quality assurance in those manufacturing facilities.

6.7 COVID-19 medicines

In this section we share details of articles captured by the MQM Globe that contain the same active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) as medicines that are approved, trailed or used by patients in the context of COVID-19. We included all those type of products even if for certain APIs the efficacy is not proven in the treatment of COVID-19 patients.

Since the 21st of November the monoclonal antibody therapy of Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc obtained emergency use authorization in the USA¹⁶. Even before the 11th of November an article reported on advertisements on the dark web allegedly selling the product (report ID 835199).

Two different past incidents illustrate how a product has been reported in the media and shortly thereafter criminal activities were reported (report ID 818239). In June 2020 people tried to smuggle 3,000 illegal doses of hydroxychloroquine into Paraguay. In September, in Venezuela there were cases of price gouging of remdesivir. A doctor allegedly sold remdesivir to patients for \$800 a vial.

In 2018 an investigation was launched in Spain against a criminal organization for online distribution of medicines (report ID 806006). In October 2020 a man was

¹⁶U.S. Food & Drug Administration. FDA Authorizes Monoclonal Antibodies for Treatment of COVID-19. Press Announcements. Published November 21, 2020. Accessed December 11, 2020. <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-authorizes-monoclonal-antibodies-treatment-covid-19>

arrested in Germany. He “*was the head of the illegal medicines distribution racket in a significant number of countries throughout the world*” and was selling alleged COVID-19 medicines amongst many other products.

In the Philippines, the FDA warned the public about 4 falsified over-the-counter medicines (report ID 796355). One of them is ‘Neozep Forte’, a phenylephrine, chlorphenamine, paracetamol combination tablet. The falsified product had a different “*logo, security mark and knurling*”.

In the USA, Nostrum Laboratories Inc. launched a recall for metformin that might have been contaminated with N-nitrosodimethylamine (report ID 790944).

In Senegal, ceftriaxone injections were seized together with other illicit medicines (report ID 806065). No further details were provided.

The US FDA and the Federal Trade Commission were alerted about a product that is marketed as Vitamin C derived from amla fruit, but allegedly is derived from other plants (report ID 827230). Fusion Health and Vitality LCC recalled voluntarily ‘Immune Boost Sublingual Vitamin D3’ (report 814170). The Vitamin D product contained statements that would lead to classification of the product by the FDA as unapproved new medicine.

7. Annexes

The annexes contain the reports generated by the MQM-Globe using pre-defined search terms. The report IDs (six digits code) discussed in section 6 ‘Lay literature’ are detailed in the annexes or available on the online MQM Globe¹⁷, using the report ID in the search box.

7.1 Vaccines

7.2 COVID-19 diagnostics

7.3 Personal protective equipment

7.4 Sanitisers and disinfectants

7.5 COVID-19 medicines

¹⁷Infectious Diseases Data Observatory. Medicine Quality Monitoring Globe. Web Page. Published 2020. Accessed October 16, 2020. <https://www.iddo.org/medicine-quality-monitoring-globe>

Annex

7.1 Vaccines

Medicine Quality Monitoring Globe

December 14, 2020



This is a summary of the information available in the Medicine Quality Monitoring Globe for the search terms selected between the dates selected. For more information on the terminology used, caveats and the work of the medicine quality group please see the information at: <https://www.iddo.org/medicine-quality>

Non-Curated reports are those that have been automatically flagged as relevant by the system but have not been manually curated by the curators.

We would be grateful for any feedback on this summary and for the details of any reports that we may have missed.

Filters applied for this report

Search ("vaccine" OR "Sputnik V" OR "CoronaVac" OR "Ad5-nCoV") AND ("CV19" OR "新冠病毒" OR "武汉新型冠状病毒" OR "非典" OR "SARS" OR "CoV-2" OR "ví rus corona" OR "武汉肺炎" OR "COVID-19" OR "COVID" OR "新冠疫情" OR "新型冠状病毒肺炎" OR "SARS-CoV-2" OR "CV" OR "Coronavirus" OR "CV-19" OR "SRAS" OR "新型冠状病毒" OR "新冠")

Start date	2020-11-01
End date	2020-11-30
Language	en
Report type	incident
Curation status	validated
Number of Reports	4

1 Stolen Flu Vaccines Show Mexico's Black Market Adapted to Coronavirus Demand

Publication date	2020-11-25
Create date	2020-11-27
Score	18.43
Report id	818239
Category	Medical device for screening/diagnosis/monitoring, Vaccine, Anti-malarial, Antiviral others
Quality	Diverted/Unregistered
Source	Unlicensed outlets
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: Stolen Flu Vaccines Show Mexico's Black Market Adapted to Coronavirus Demand
Insightcrime.org

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 1: Places for report 818239

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Americas	Mexico	Mexico	23	-102
Americas	Brazil	Federative Republic of Brazil	-10	-55
Americas	Venezuela	Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	8	-66

Table 2: Drugs for report 818239

Medicine Name	Medicine Class	Action	ATC Code
	Influenza vaccines	viral vaccines	J07BB
			J07
hydroxychloroquine	Aminoquinolines	antimalarials	P01BA02

Notes: A flu vaccine in Mexico has become the latest drug to emerge on Latin America's burgeoning black market medicine trade, highlighting how criminal groups are increasingly providing items believed to be of help against COVID-19.

On November 15, Mexico's Federal Commission for the Protection against Sanitary Risk (Comisión

Federal para la Protección contra Riesgos Sanitarios — COFEPRIS) warned that a flu vaccine called Vaxigrip was being sold illegally online. [...] And the following day, on November 16, some 11,000 rapid COVID-19 tests were seized by customs agents at Abraham González airport in Ciudad Juárez, Vanguardia reported.

This comes just a month after over 10,000 doses of flu vaccine were stolen from a truck belonging to Mexico's Institute of Social Security (Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social – IMSS). The theft came on the heels of the government's announcement that there would be a scarcity of flu vaccines due to the pandemic, so the smugglers saw an opportunity.

Mexico's medicinal black market is by no means a new phenomenon. As previously reported by InSight Crime, 60 percent of medication sold in the country is either stolen, expired, falsified or produced without minimum quality requirements, according to the Mexican Association of Pharmaceutical Research Industries (Asociación Mexicana de Industrias de Investigación Farmacéutica – AMIF). [...] This year, whenever a real or unproven remedy has been touted as a possible cure for COVID-19, it soon appeared on the black market. Last June in Brazil, shortly after President Jair Bolsonaro touted hydroxychloroquine as a potential treatment for the coronavirus, smugglers were found bringing more than 3,000 doses illegally into Paraguay.

In September in Venezuela, the first drug shown to be effective against COVID-19, remdesivir, was booming on the black market with one doctor selling it for \$800 a vial to patients at Ciudad Hospitalaria Enrique Tejera, a hospital in the city of Valencia. [...]

2 COVID-19 vaccines selling for \$24k on black market

Publication date	2020-11-13
Create date	2020-11-16
Score	16.97
Report id	803482
Category	Other, Vaccine, Medical devices for disease prevention, Anti-malarial, Antibiotic
Quality	Falsified
Source	Website(s)
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: COVID-19 vaccines selling for \$24k on black market Noosa News

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 3: Places for report 803482

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Melanesia	Australia	Noosa Heads	-26.39433	153.0901

Table 4: Drugs for report 803482

Medicine Name	Medicine Class	Action	ATC Code
	Antidotes	all other therapeutic products	V03AB
			J07
azithromycin	Macrolides	macrolides, lincosamides and streptogramins	J01FA10
azithromycin	Antibiotics	antiinfectives	S01AA26
hydroxychloroquine	Aminoquinolines	antimalarials	P01BA02

Notes: COVID-19 vaccines are already being sold on the black market for up to \$24,000 and experts say Australian players are involved in the illegal activity. Australian National University academic Professor Rob Broadhurst uncovered 12 markets on the dark web selling COVID-19 related products including 22 vaccines and the blood of patients who had recovered from the virus. [...] Professor Broadhurst found a total of 645 COVID-19-related products for sale on the dark web, one third of which were unique listings, once repeat listings on different sites were accounted for. Dark website Agartha listed 444 COVID-19 related products while DarkBay

offered 118 COVID-19 related listings. [...] Personal protective equipment such as masks, sanitisers, gowns and gloves accounted for about half of all the unique listings. Medicines were the next most common products, accounting for a third of the unique listings (74) and included the drugs hydroxychloroquine, antibiotic azithromycin and the antiviral medicine favipiravir. Vaccines and antidotes made up about six per cent of all listings, he said. [...]

3 Dark Web Has Become a Marketplace for ‘Vaccines’ and Other Pandemic Scams

Publication date	2020-11-11
Create date	2020-12-11
Score	15.41
Report id	835199
Category	Other, Medical device for screening/diagnosis/monitoring, Medical devices for disease prevention, Vaccine
Quality	Falsified
Source	Website(s)
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: Following Donald Trump’s quick recovery from Covid-19 last month, advertisements appeared on the dark web — the seamy underbelly of the internet — selling what they claimed was Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc.’s drug that the president touted as a ‘miracle’ cure – even though it hadn’t yet been approved for public sale.

In May, with coronavirus cases surging around the world and no end in sight, a supposed Spanish laboratory doctor promised Covid-19 infected blood and sputum. It wasn’t clear if it was offered because it might contain protective antibodies or as a way to infect an unwitting enemy. Either way the price for the treatment was \$100 for two syringes. And back in April, when intensive care units worldwide were flooded with Covid-19 patients gasping for air, a seller on the dark web promised ventilators ”in bulk supply.” Buyers bought at least 300, according to the seller, identified only as JhonCliff.

Just as the pandemic has upended the buying and selling of goods like toilet paper, airplane seats and Vermont real estate, it has roiled the mostly illegal markets that thrive on the dark web. There, the profiteering and panic buying of a global health crisis is on chilling display. As deaths have passed 1.2 million globally, hundreds of thousands of ads touting Covid-19 scams have come and gone in dark web markets, which during more normal times are venues for the sale of drugs, guns, pornography and a variety of stolen property, including digital identities. While accessing the dark web doesn’t involve complex gadgetry or knowledge, it’s not a place where most users find themselves. Many of the transactions there are illegal, and the use of aliases is the norm. For the last few months, Bloomberg News has been exploring these underground sites and channels to investigate the extent Covid-19 has reshaped the dark web’s illicit markets and created new opportunities for its denizens.

In the first months of the pandemic, vendors mostly specialized in hard-to-find Covid commodities, including medical equipment and test kits. By late summer, stolen digital identities were being sold specifically with the purpose of defrauding government programs meant to help small businesses and the unemployed. More recently, dark web profiteers have offered so-called vaccines for those unwilling to wait for final government approvals. In all, almost \$100 million worth of Covid-related goods have been listed for sale on the dark web, according to a forthcoming

report by the CTI League, a coalition of cybersecurity researchers investigating the intersection of Covid-19 and the internet. In a survey of 25 of the largest dark web marketplaces, the CTI league found that 10% included Covid-related branding.

It's virtually impossible to know how lucrative this market has been for sellers. But the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes predicted in June that narcotics peddlers would pivot to Covid-themed products, suggesting that enough desperate buyers exist for sellers to make money.

"Covid has been like one big Black Friday sale for the dark web," said the CTI League's Sean O'Connor. "It's a marketing tool on the dark web that's resulted in a net positive for dark web vendors."

In April, the U.N. pointed to the trafficking of Covid commodities and financial fraud as an early indicator of what's to come. As scientists and disease control experts emerge from the diagnosis and testing phase and move into the treatment and prevention phases, so too will scammers, according to the international organization.

Some already have. One recent "vaccine" ad claimed to come from a lab technician with access to treatment that's been tested but which the ad said wouldn't be public for years.

"The whole world is panicking about a virus that was made by humans," reads the ad, selling vials of what it claimed was a successful Covid vaccine for \$25,000. "I got access to the lab that is mass producing the vaccine for this disease. It has tested on Israeli patients and it works." Another peddles a conspiracy theory about how private labs are hoarding vaccines to drive up their price. But for a lucky few, the seller "snuck vials out of the lab that have been confirmed by Israel's Minister for Science and Technology." The vials are on sale for five bitcoin, or about \$77,000, hawked by its seller with an apocalyptic claim. This is the "only option to stave off death," the ad claims.

Bloomberg News reached out to this and other sellers of Covid-related products, but none returned messages seeking comment.

Of course, the problem with buying a vaccine on the dark web is there are no guarantees that it's the real stuff. Not surprisingly, there's a history of dark web merchants ripping off their customers. For instance, when masks were in short supply early in the disease's trajectory, scammers in Thailand dug them out of trash cans, repackaged them and sold them as new, according to local media reports.

"Online vendors on darknet markets have adjusted to the Covid-19 pandemic by adding various products and services to their illicit inventories," said David Maimon, director of Georgia State University's Evidence-Based Cybersecurity Research Group. "We currently see a relatively low volume of ads advertising Covid-19 commodities, yet a sharp increase in the volume of ads advertising for Covid-related financial scams."

The day's biggest stories Get caught up with the Evening Briefing. Email Enter your email Bloomberg may send me offers and promotions. Sign Up By submitting my information, I agree to the Privacy Policy and Terms of Service. The Covid gold rush has opened new uses for the vast caches of hacked material available on the dark web: criminals are using it to rip off government programs intended to help people struggling during the pandemic, according to security officials. A popular target is the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program, which has rushed \$260 billion to millions of Americans facing difficulty paying their bills. The Labor Department's Inspector General estimates the program could lose \$26 billion to fraud and waste by the time the program runs dry.

The scams work in a couple different ways but essentially boil down to fraudsters gaining access on the dark web to an individual or company's personally identifiable information – name, social

security, tax ID, date of birth and address – then using the information to fill out an application for Covid-related benefits.

Run the scam often enough and returns can add up to tens of millions of dollars, said Byung J. Pak, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia, a region that he says has been a hotbed for both medical products and financial crimes related to the pandemic. The department presently has 40 open investigations related to coronavirus crimes, most of which focus on dark net schemes aimed at stealing money from government welfare programs, Pak said.

In mid-October, the most popular scams included PUA programs in Michigan, Georgia and Arizona, according to dedicated channels on the chat app Telegram dubbed, ‘Unemployment Benefits,’ ‘Darkside Forum,’ and ‘SBA Grants & Unemployment.’ The guides are also directing users to avoid states like Kansas, Nevada and West Virginia because they had stopped paying. Washington, Massachusetts, Illinois and Ohio “can get you tracked and in trouble,” according to one guide distributed for free on the dark web.

The reason for all the guidance on the dark web is simple, according to one dark web seller who goes by the name Christopher Gentry. “The PUA pays,” he said.

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 5: Places for report 835199

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
		Earth	0	0

Table 6: Drugs for report 835199

Medicine Name	Medicine Class	Action	ATC Code
			J07

Notes:

4 Criminal gangs are making billions from fake medical supplies during COVID

Publication date	2020-11-23
Create date	2020-11-24
Score	14.81
Report id	815477
Category	Medical device for screening/diagnosis/monitoring, Vaccine, Medical devices for disease prevention, Anti-malarial, Antibiotic
Quality	Falsified
Source	Website(s)
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: Criminal gangs are making billions from fake medical supplies during COVID The Spectator US

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 7: Places for report 815477

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Americas	United States	United States	39.76	-98.5

Table 8: Drugs for report 815477

Medicine Name	Medicine Class	Action	ATC Code
	Antibiotics	intestinal antiinfectives	A07AA
	Antibiotics	agents for treatment of hemorrhoids and anal fissures for topical use	C05AB
	Antibiotics	antifungals for topical use	D01AA
	Antibiotics	antiinfectives and anti-septics, excl. combinations with corticosteroids	G01AA
	Antibiotics	antimycotics for systemic use	J02AA
	Antibiotics	drugs for treatment of tuberculosis	J04AB

Table 8: Drugs for report 815477(continued)

Medicine Name	Medicine Class	Action	ATC Code
	Antibiotics	throat preparations	R02AB
	Antibiotics	antiinfectives	S01AA
		antimalarials	P01B
			J07
chloroquine	Aminoquinolines	antimalarials	P01BA01

Notes: [...] Since early June, Customs and Border Protection has seized more than 107,000 FDA-prohibited COVID-19 test kits, 750,000 counterfeit face masks, thousands of EPA-prohibited anti-virus lanyards, 11,000 FDA-prohibited chloroquine tables and more than 67,000 ACCU-CHEK test strips. [...] The Department of Homeland Security notes that the counterfeit market in the US has increased tenfold since 2000. The majority of these counterfeit goods are sold online. The most current numbers are even more disheartening: since the start of the pandemic in January, sale of online counterfeit goods have jumped 40 percent over 2019. The FDA has issued letters to seven companies for selling fraudulent COVID-19 products, including teas, essential oils and colloidal silver. In addition, the FDA issued a temporary injunction against a company selling bleach as a ‘miracle cure’ for coronavirus. Consider too that the PPE manufacturer 3M has filed 12 lawsuits against fake PPE providers who falsely claimed to be selling genuine N95 masks, often at vastly inflated prices. And things are poised to get worse. When a coronavirus vaccine or life-saving medications are developed, unprecedented demand will drive increases in the theft and counterfeiting of these medicines. [...] Based on \$4.3 billion in counterfeit drug seizures between 2014 and 2016, custom agents found that antibiotics are the drugs most often targeted by counterfeiters. More than 35.4 percent of the drugs seized were marketed as antibiotics, while antimalarials ranked fourth, accounting for 8.9 percent of seized drugs. Tragically, forensic tests of suspected samples show that in 90 percent of cases, counterfeit medicines can harm patients. [...]

Annex

7.2 COVID-19 diagnostics

Medicine Quality Monitoring Globe

December 14, 2020



This is a summary of the information available in the Medicine Quality Monitoring Globe for the search terms selected between the dates selected. For more information on the terminology used, caveats and the work of the medicine quality group please see the information at: <https://www.iddo.org/medicine-quality>

Non-Curated reports are those that have been automatically flagged as relevant by the system but have not been manually curated by the curators.

We would be grateful for any feedback on this summary and for the details of any reports that we may have missed.

Filters applied for this report

Search ("thermometer")OR (("coronavirus kit" OR "RDT" OR "covid test" OR "lateral flow assay" OR "test kit" OR "LFA" OR "COVID kit" OR "Medical device for screening/diagnosis/monitoring" OR "rapid diagnostic test" OR "coronavirus test" OR "antigen test" OR "COVID-19 test" OR "test cassette" OR "In-vitro-diagnostic" OR "cassette test" OR "RT-PCR" OR "IVD" OR "testing kit" OR "qPCR" OR "antibody test" OR "COVID-19 kit" OR "PCR" OR "polymerase chain reaction" OR "ELISA") AND ("CV19" OR "新冠病毒" OR "武汉新型冠状病毒" OR "非典" OR "SARS" OR "CoV-2" OR "vi rút corona" OR "武汉肺炎" OR "COVID-19" OR "COVID" OR "新冠疫情" OR "新型冠状病毒肺炎" OR "SARS-CoV-2" OR "CV" OR "Coronavirus" OR "CV-19" OR "SRAS" OR "新型冠状病毒" OR "新冠"))

Start date	2020-11-01
End date	2020-11-30
Language	en
Report type	incident

Curation status

validated

Number of Reports

5

1 Govt cancelled ICMR's purchase orders from China for COVID-19 test kits: MoS Health Choubey

Publication date	2020-11-16
Create date	2020-11-20
Score	60.99
Report id	810419
Category	Medical device for screening/diagnosis/monitoring
Quality	Substandard
Source	Manufacturer
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: Govt cancelled ICMR's purchase orders from China for COVID-19 test kits: MoS Health Choubey ETHealthworld.com

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 1: Places for report 810419

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Southern Asia	India	Punjab	30	74
Southern Asia	India	State of Karnataka	14.66667	75.83333
Southern Asia	India	Rajasthan	26.58333	73.83333
Southern Asia	India	Republic of India	22	79

Notes: The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) had placed purchase orders for COVID-19 antibody test kits to Indian firms which were cancelled subsequently with no payment made to any Chinese company, the Lok Sabha was told on Friday. In a written reply to a question, Minister of State for Health Ashwini Choubey said the ICMR has not imported huge quantities of antibody test kits from China.

Narrating the sequence of incidents which led the government to withdraw the faulty COVID-19 antibody test kits from China and the grounds on which the import orders were cancelled, Choubey said antibody kits of M/s Aark Pharmaceuticals (Wondfo) and M/s Gene2me (Livzon) were sent to the field. [...]

2 Combating unauthorized and counterfeit goods during COVID-19 pandemic

Publication date	2020-11-05
Create date	2020-11-05
Score	41.83
Report id	793903
Category	Other, Medical device for screening/diagnosis/monitoring, Medical devices for disease prevention
Quality	Falsified
Source	Land point of entry
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: Combating unauthorized and counterfeit goods during COVID-19 pandemic Mirage News

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 2: Places for report 793903

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Americas	Canada	Vancouver	49.24966	-123.11934

Table 3: Other Stories

ID	Title	Link
794652	Test kits, PPE and pills: Unauthorized, counterfeit COVID-related goods seized at B.C. border	Link
793983	Authorities combating unauthorized and counterfeit goods during pandemic	Link
793990	Canadians Stop, Seize More Than 380 Shipments of Unauthorized COVID Supplies and Tests	Link
794026	Project Purify nets counterfeit COVID-19 related goods	Link
794074	Canadian border agents seize fake, unauthorized COVID-19 tests and PPEs News	Link

Notes: The Government of Canada continues to take action to prevent the importation of

unauthorized or illegal health products at border crossings across Canada.

On November 5, 2020, the CBSA, Health Canada and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) announced the results of a Government of Canada initiative to combat unauthorized or counterfeit goods attempting to enter Canada through British Columbia. [...] During this period, over 380 shipments of unauthorized content or counterfeit COVID-19-related goods were detained at the border, including:

48,000 COVID-19 test kits; 4.5 million units of personal protective equipment; 33,000 prescription tablets and pills; and over 1,500 other intercepts of fraudulent and potentially dangerous products. The CBSA seized mislabelled or improperly declared goods, and referred others to Health Canada, who then seized or refused entry. [...]

3 Criminal gangs are making billions from fake medical supplies during COVID

Publication date	2020-11-23
Create date	2020-11-24
Score	31.24
Report id	815477
Category	Medical device for screening/diagnosis/monitoring, Vaccine, Medical devices for disease prevention, Anti-malarial, Antibiotic
Quality	Falsified
Source	Website(s)
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: Criminal gangs are making billions from fake medical supplies during COVID The Spectator US

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 4: Places for report 815477

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Americas	United States	United States	39.76	-98.5

Table 5: Drugs for report 815477

Medicine Name	Medicine Class	Action	ATC Code
	Antibiotics	intestinal antiinfectives	A07AA
	Antibiotics	agents for treatment of hemorrhoids and anal fissures for topical use	C05AB
	Antibiotics	antifungals for topical use	D01AA
	Antibiotics	antiinfectives and anti-septics, excl. combinations with corticosteroids	G01AA
	Antibiotics	antimycotics for systemic use	J02AA
	Antibiotics	drugs for treatment of tuberculosis	J04AB

Table 5: Drugs for report 815477(continued)

Medicine Name	Medicine Class	Action	ATC Code
	Antibiotics	throat preparations	R02AB
	Antibiotics	antiinfectives	S01AA
		antimalarials	P01B
			J07
chloroquine	Aminoquinolines	antimalarials	P01BA01

Notes: [...] Since early June, Customs and Border Protection has seized more than 107,000 FDA-prohibited COVID-19 test kits, 750,000 counterfeit face masks, thousands of EPA-prohibited anti-virus lanyards, 11,000 FDA-prohibited chloroquine tables and more than 67,000 ACCU-CHEK test strips. [...] The Department of Homeland Security notes that the counterfeit market in the US has increased tenfold since 2000. The majority of these counterfeit goods are sold online. The most current numbers are even more disheartening: since the start of the pandemic in January, sale of online counterfeit goods have jumped 40 percent over 2019. The FDA has issued letters to seven companies for selling fraudulent COVID-19 products, including teas, essential oils and colloidal silver. In addition, the FDA issued a temporary injunction against a company selling bleach as a ‘miracle cure’ for coronavirus. Consider too that the PPE manufacturer 3M has filed 12 lawsuits against fake PPE providers who falsely claimed to be selling genuine N95 masks, often at vastly inflated prices. And things are poised to get worse. When a coronavirus vaccine or life-saving medications are developed, unprecedented demand will drive increases in the theft and counterfeiting of these medicines. [...] Based on \$4.3 billion in counterfeit drug seizures between 2014 and 2016, custom agents found that antibiotics are the drugs most often targeted by counterfeiters. More than 35.4 percent of the drugs seized were marketed as antibiotics, while antimalarials ranked fourth, accounting for 8.9 percent of seized drugs. Tragically, forensic tests of suspected samples show that in 90 percent of cases, counterfeit medicines can harm patients. [...]

4 Stolen Flu Vaccines Show Mexico's Black Market Adapted to Coronavirus Demand

Publication date	2020-11-25
Create date	2020-11-27
Score	26.99
Report id	818239
Category	Medical device for screening/diagnosis/monitoring, Vaccine, Anti-malarial, Antiviral others
Quality	Diverted/Unregistered
Source	Unlicensed outlets
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: Stolen Flu Vaccines Show Mexico's Black Market Adapted to Coronavirus Demand
Insightcrime.org

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 6: Places for report 818239

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Americas	Mexico	Mexico	23	-102
Americas	Brazil	Federative Republic of Brazil	-10	-55
Americas	Venezuela	Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	8	-66

Table 7: Drugs for report 818239

Medicine Name	Medicine Class	Action	ATC Code
	Influenza vaccines	viral vaccines	J07BB
			J07
hydroxychloroquine	Aminoquinolines	antimalarials	P01BA02

Notes: A flu vaccine in Mexico has become the latest drug to emerge on Latin America's burgeoning black market medicine trade, highlighting how criminal groups are increasingly providing items believed to be of help against COVID-19.

On November 15, Mexico's Federal Commission for the Protection against Sanitary Risk (Comisión

Federal para la Protección contra Riesgos Sanitarios — COFEPRIS) warned that a flu vaccine called Vaxigrip was being sold illegally online. [...] And the following day, on November 16, some 11,000 rapid COVID-19 tests were seized by customs agents at Abraham González airport in Ciudad Juárez, Vanguardia reported.

This comes just a month after over 10,000 doses of flu vaccine were stolen from a truck belonging to Mexico's Institute of Social Security (Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social – IMSS). The theft came on the heels of the government's announcement that there would be a scarcity of flu vaccines due to the pandemic, so the smugglers saw an opportunity.

Mexico's medicinal black market is by no means a new phenomenon. As previously reported by InSight Crime, 60 percent of medication sold in the country is either stolen, expired, falsified or produced without minimum quality requirements, according to the Mexican Association of Pharmaceutical Research Industries (Asociación Mexicana de Industrias de Investigación Farmacéutica – AMIF). [...] This year, whenever a real or unproven remedy has been touted as a possible cure for COVID-19, it soon appeared on the black market. Last June in Brazil, shortly after President Jair Bolsonaro touted hydroxychloroquine as a potential treatment for the coronavirus, smugglers were found bringing more than 3,000 doses illegally into Paraguay.

In September in Venezuela, the first drug shown to be effective against COVID-19, remdesivir, was booming on the black market with one doctor selling it for \$800 a vial to patients at Ciudad Hospitalaria Enrique Tejera, a hospital in the city of Valencia. [...]

5 Dark Web Has Become a Marketplace for ‘Vaccines’ and Other Pandemic Scams

Publication date	2020-11-11
Create date	2020-12-11
Score	23.46
Report id	835199
Category	Other, Medical device for screening/diagnosis/monitoring, Medical devices for disease prevention, Vaccine
Quality	Falsified
Source	Website(s)
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: Following Donald Trump’s quick recovery from Covid-19 last month, advertisements appeared on the dark web — the seamy underbelly of the internet — selling what they claimed was Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc.’s drug that the president touted as a ‘miracle’ cure – even though it hadn’t yet been approved for public sale.

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The day's biggest stories Get caught up with the Evening Briefing. Email Enter your email Bloomberg may send me offers and promotions. Sign Up By submitting my information, I agree to the Privacy Policy and Terms of Service. The Covid gold rush has opened new uses for the vast caches of hacked material available on the dark web: criminals are using it to rip off government programs intended to help people struggling during the pandemic, according to security officials. A popular target is the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program, which has rushed \$260 billion to millions of Americans facing difficulty paying their bills. The Labor Department's Inspector General estimates the program could lose \$26 billion to fraud and waste by the time the program runs dry.

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Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 8: Places for report 835199

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
		Earth	0	0

Table 9: Drugs for report 835199

Medicine Name	Medicine Class	Action	ATC Code
			J07

Notes:

Annex

7.3 Personal Protective Equipment

Medicine Quality Monitoring Globe

December 14, 2020



This is a summary of the information available in the Medicine Quality Monitoring Globe for the search terms selected between the dates selected. For more information on the terminology used, caveats and the work of the medicine quality group please see the information at: <https://www.iddo.org/medicine-quality>

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Filters applied for this report

Search ("Personal protective equipment" OR "PPE" OR "protective glasses" OR "apron" OR "n95" OR "gowns" OR "facemask" OR "Medical devices for disease prevention" OR "visor" OR "gloves" OR "goggles" OR "respirator" OR "KN95" OR "mask") OR ((Medical devices for disease prevention) AND ("CV19" OR "新冠病毒" OR "武汉新型冠状病毒" OR "非典" OR "SARS" OR "CoV-2" OR "vi rú t corona" OR "武汉肺炎" OR "COVID-19" OR "COVID" OR "新冠疫情" OR "新型冠状病毒肺炎" OR "SARS-CoV-2" OR "CV" OR "Coronavirus" OR "CV-19" OR "SRAS" OR "新型冠状病毒" OR "新冠"))

Start date	2020-11-01
End date	2020-11-30
Language	en
Report type	incident
Curation status	validated

1 GPs sent 'used' gloves in 'significant' PPE hygiene blunder

Publication date	2020-11-24
Create date	2020-11-25
Score	47.42
Report id	816932
Category	Medical devices for disease prevention
Quality	Falsified
Source	Manufacturer
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: GPs sent 'used' gloves in 'significant' PPE hygiene blunder Pulse

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 1: Places for report 816932

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Europe	United Kingdom	South West	50.81119	-3.63343

Table 2: Other Stories

ID	Title	Link
816950	GPs sent 'used' gloves in 'significant' PPE hygiene blunder	Link
817221	GPs 'sent clearly used' gloves from a Malaysian manufacturer	Link

Notes: Exclusive GPs in the South West of England have been told to 'immediately' stop using a batch of PPE that has been distributed locally, after finding that a number of protective gloves were 'clearly used' upon delivery.

In an email to GP practices sent earlier today, NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire CCG said they should stop using a brand of gloves delivered by its Medequip team.

The CCG had said that the problem affected Sanique medium and large gloves from Malaysia-based manufacturer Brightway Holdings – however, the company strenuously denies this. [...] The email said: 'We have become aware today of a significant hygiene and infection issue with this brand of gloves delivered via our Medequip team since 12 November. It would appear that a number of unopened boxes are filled with gloves that have clearly been used. [...]GP practices

have faced a number of issues with substandard PPE during the coronavirus pandemic.

Pulse previously reported that practices across the country had been supplied with expired face masks that had concealed 'best before' stickers.

And in June, the Government issued an alert telling GPs to throw away batches of out-of-date face masks distributed to practices after finding they posed a 'risk to staff'.

Meanwhile, in August, GPs were told to 'immediately' stop using certain non-sterile PPE gowns supplied by the Government after some batches did 'not meet minimum standards for fluid resistance'.

And earlier this month, GP practices in Scotland were sent 'official' PPE aprons made from 'repurposed bin bags'.

2 COVID-19 vaccines selling for \$24k on black market

Publication date	2020-11-13
Create date	2020-11-16
Score	45.39
Report id	803482
Category	Other, Vaccine, Medical devices for disease prevention, Anti-malarial, Antibiotic
Quality	Falsified
Source	Website(s)
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: COVID-19 vaccines selling for \$24k on black market Noosa News

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 3: Places for report 803482

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Melanesia	Australia	Noosa Heads	-26.39433	153.0901

Table 4: Drugs for report 803482

Medicine Name	Medicine Class	Action	ATC Code
	Antidotes	all other therapeutic products	V03AB
			J07
azithromycin	Macrolides	macrolides, lincosamides and streptogramins	J01FA10
azithromycin	Antibiotics	antiinfectives	S01AA26
hydroxychloroquine	Aminoquinolines	antimalarials	P01BA02

Notes: COVID-19 vaccines are already being sold on the black market for up to \$24,000 and experts say Australian players are involved in the illegal activity. Australian National University academic Professor Rob Broadhurst uncovered 12 markets on the dark web selling COVID-19 related products including 22 vaccines and the blood of patients who had recovered from the virus. [...] Professor Broadhurst found a total of 645 COVID-19-related products for sale on the dark web, one third of which were unique listings, once repeat listings on different sites were accounted for. Dark website Agartha listed 444 COVID-19 related products while DarkBay

offered 118 COVID-19 related listings. [...] Personal protective equipment such as masks, sanitisers, gowns and gloves accounted for about half of all the unique listings. Medicines were the next most common products, accounting for a third of the unique listings (74) and included the drugs hydroxychloroquine, antibiotic azithromycin and the antiviral medicine favipiravir. Vaccines and antidotes made up about six per cent of all listings, he said. [...]

3 Combating unauthorized and counterfeit goods during COVID-19 pandemic

Publication date	2020-11-05
Create date	2020-11-05
Score	38.53
Report id	793903
Category	Other, Medical device for screening/diagnosis/monitoring, Medical devices for disease prevention
Quality	Falsified
Source	Land point of entry
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: Combating unauthorized and counterfeit goods during COVID-19 pandemic Mirage News

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 5: Places for report 793903

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Americas	Canada	Vancouver	49.24966	-123.11934

Table 6: Other Stories

ID	Title	Link
794652	Test kits, PPE and pills: Unauthorized, counterfeit COVID-related goods seized at B.C. border	Link
793983	Authorities combating unauthorized and counterfeit goods during pandemic	Link
793990	Canadians Stop, Seize More Than 380 Shipments of Unauthorized COVID Supplies and Tests	Link
794026	Project Purify nets counterfeit COVID-19 related goods	Link
794074	Canadian border agents seize fake, unauthorized COVID-19 tests and PPEs News	Link

Notes: The Government of Canada continues to take action to prevent the importation of

unauthorized or illegal health products at border crossings across Canada.

On November 5, 2020, the CBSA, Health Canada and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) announced the results of a Government of Canada initiative to combat unauthorized or counterfeit goods attempting to enter Canada through British Columbia. [...] During this period, over 380 shipments of unauthorized content or counterfeit COVID-19-related goods were detained at the border, including:

48,000 COVID-19 test kits; 4.5 million units of personal protective equipment; 33,000 prescription tablets and pills; and over 1,500 other intercepts of fraudulent and potentially dangerous products. The CBSA seized mislabelled or improperly declared goods, and referred others to Health Canada, who then seized or refused entry. [...]

4 Criminal gangs are making billions from fake medical supplies during COVID

Publication date	2020-11-23
Create date	2020-11-24
Score	33.35
Report id	815477
Category	Medical device for screening/diagnosis/monitoring, Vaccine, Medical devices for disease prevention, Anti-malarial, Antibiotic
Quality	Falsified
Source	Website(s)
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: Criminal gangs are making billions from fake medical supplies during COVID The Spectator US

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 7: Places for report 815477

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Americas	United States	United States	39.76	-98.5

Table 8: Drugs for report 815477

Medicine Name	Medicine Class	Action	ATC Code
	Antibiotics	intestinal antiinfectives	A07AA
	Antibiotics	agents for treatment of hemorrhoids and anal fissures for topical use	C05AB
	Antibiotics	antifungals for topical use	D01AA
	Antibiotics	antiinfectives and anti-septics, excl. combinations with corticosteroids	G01AA
	Antibiotics	antimycotics for systemic use	J02AA
	Antibiotics	drugs for treatment of tuberculosis	J04AB

Table 8: Drugs for report 815477(continued)

Medicine Name	Medicine Class	Action	ATC Code
	Antibiotics	throat preparations	R02AB
	Antibiotics	antiinfectives	S01AA
		antimalarials	P01B
			J07
chloroquine	Aminoquinolines	antimalarials	P01BA01

Notes: [...] Since early June, Customs and Border Protection has seized more than 107,000 FDA-prohibited COVID-19 test kits, 750,000 counterfeit face masks, thousands of EPA-prohibited anti-virus lanyards, 11,000 FDA-prohibited chloroquine tables and more than 67,000 ACCU-CHEK test strips. [...] The Department of Homeland Security notes that the counterfeit market in the US has increased tenfold since 2000. The majority of these counterfeit goods are sold online. The most current numbers are even more disheartening: since the start of the pandemic in January, sale of online counterfeit goods have jumped 40 percent over 2019. The FDA has issued letters to seven companies for selling fraudulent COVID-19 products, including teas, essential oils and colloidal silver. In addition, the FDA issued a temporary injunction against a company selling bleach as a ‘miracle cure’ for coronavirus. Consider too that the PPE manufacturer 3M has filed 12 lawsuits against fake PPE providers who falsely claimed to be selling genuine N95 masks, often at vastly inflated prices. And things are poised to get worse. When a coronavirus vaccine or life-saving medications are developed, unprecedented demand will drive increases in the theft and counterfeiting of these medicines. [...] Based on \$4.3 billion in counterfeit drug seizures between 2014 and 2016, custom agents found that antibiotics are the drugs most often targeted by counterfeiters. More than 35.4 percent of the drugs seized were marketed as antibiotics, while antimalarials ranked fourth, accounting for 8.9 percent of seized drugs. Tragically, forensic tests of suspected samples show that in 90 percent of cases, counterfeit medicines can harm patients. [...]

5 Government starts legal action against face mask suppliers

Publication date	2020-11-13
Create date	2020-11-17
Score	27.36
Report id	802796
Category	Medical devices for disease prevention
Quality	Substandard
Source	Distributor/Wholesaler
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: Government starts legal action against face mask suppliers The Brussels Times

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 9: Places for report 802796

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Europe	Belgium	Kingdom of Belgium	50.75	4.5

Notes: At the start of the Covid-19 crisis, Belgium was faced with a critical shortage of face masks. The government itself had destroyed a strategic stock of some 27 million masks, and then found itself having to compete on a world market under huge pressure of demand. [...] And legal action has been initiated against four other suppliers: marketing and distribution company IC Pharma based in Auderghem in Brussels; infection control specialists UltraZonic from Zandhoven in Antwerp province; and two others more mysterious, Life medical from Schelle, also in Antwerp province, and Qingdao LuoTa Management. The four companies together were responsible for the delivery of 25 million FFP2 masks. "These matters are now in the hands of our lawyers," a spokesperson for the health ministry told the paper, declining to give more details.

De Morgen also contacted UltraZonic, a company which specialises in the cleaning of endoscopes and other surgical instruments. The company said it was itself involved in legal action against its supplier, after the masks delivered turned out to be of substandard quality.

6 Maharashtra: Counterfeit masks using leading brand's name major concern for manufacturer; cases, raids in many cities

Publication date	2020-11-09
Create date	2020-11-10
Score	25.81
Report id	798410
Category	Medical devices for disease prevention
Quality	Falsified
Source	Clandestine laboratory
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: Maharashtra: Counterfeit masks using leading brand's name major concern for manufacturer; cases, raids in many cities The Indian Express

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 10: Places for report 798410

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Southern Asia	India	Ghāziābād	28.66535	77.43915

Table 11: Other Stories

ID	Title	Link
800153	Counterfeiting news: Face masks, currency notes	Link

Notes: One of India's leading mask manufacturers Venus Safety and Health Private Ltd has issued at least 38 legal notices during the Covid-19 pandemic to owners of manufacturing units that produce counterfeit masks using the company's brand name. As demand for masks continues in the pandemic, counterfeiting has remained an issue of concern. [...] In the latest case on November 3, Sahibabad police in Ghaziabad raided a manufacturing unit and found 7,562 fake masks with brand name Venus 4400 N-95. The FIR stated the manufacturer had used a white cloth and put a fake Venus seal to sell the masks. The police have named one Amit Mohan as the accused in the FIR. Mohan was a cloth bag manufacturer who bought a machine and started producing masks, selling them under the brand name of Venus and 3M. [...] These masks have made way into not just street-side stalls of hawkers, but also into chemist shops and e-pharmacy portals. In another FIR on October 15 by Dum Dum police station, 8,600 fake

masks of 3M and 9,100 masks of Venus were recovered from a shop. A 30-year-old shop owner, Abhijit Ghosh, has been named accused. [...]

7 Warning issued as 1,600 'unsafe' face masks seized across Nottinghamshire

Publication date	2020-11-05
Create date	2020-11-09
Score	22.12
Report id	794413
Category	Medical devices for disease prevention
Quality	Substandard
Source	Manufacturer
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: Warning issued as 1,600 'unsafe' face masks seized across Nottinghamshire Nottinghamshire Live

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 12: Places for report 794413

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Europe	United Kingdom	Nottinghamshire	53.12773	-1.01227
Europe	United Kingdom	Gedling	52.97574	-1.07873
Europe	United Kingdom	Mansfield	53.13333	-1.2
Europe	United Kingdom	Newark on Trent	53.06667	-0.81667

Table 13: Other Stories

ID	Title	Link
800060	Warning issued as 1,600 'unsafe' face masks seized across Nottinghamshire	Link

Notes: Hundreds of PPE items have been seized by trading standards officials in Nottinghamshire during routine checks across the county. [...] In total, more than 1,600 items were either seized or sent for repackaging by Trading Standards officials during checks in the county, including in Mansfield, Newark and Gedling. [...] The majority of the face masks which were seized came during 12 separate checks in Mansfield, with 1,000 masks described as being suitable for care homes and hospitals despite not meeting "essential safety requirements". [...] A further 600 items were seized across Gedling and Newark - 400 and 200 respectively - for falsely

claiming to be at a high standard of protection. [...] The council spokesperson added: "[We seized] a substantial number of face masks claiming to be of KN95 standards, which provide an inadequate level of protection and are likely to be poor quality products - accompanied by fake or fraudulent paperwork. [...]"

8 Dark Web Has Become a Marketplace for ‘Vaccines’ and Other Pandemic Scams

Publication date	2020-11-11
Create date	2020-12-11
Score	21.43
Report id	835199
Category	Other, Medical device for screening/diagnosis/monitoring, Medical devices for disease prevention, Vaccine
Quality	Falsified
Source	Website(s)
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: Following Donald Trump’s quick recovery from Covid-19 last month, advertisements appeared on the dark web — the seamy underbelly of the internet — selling what they claimed was Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc.’s drug that the president touted as a ‘miracle’ cure – even though it hadn’t yet been approved for public sale.

In May, with coronavirus cases surging around the world and no end in sight, a supposed Spanish laboratory doctor promised Covid-19 infected blood and sputum. It wasn’t clear if it was offered because it might contain protective antibodies or as a way to infect an unwitting enemy. Either way the price for the treatment was \$100 for two syringes. And back in April, when intensive care units worldwide were flooded with Covid-19 patients gasping for air, a seller on the dark web promised ventilators ”in bulk supply.” Buyers bought at least 300, according to the seller, identified only as JhonCliff.

Just as the pandemic has upended the buying and selling of goods like toilet paper, airplane seats and Vermont real estate, it has roiled the mostly illegal markets that thrive on the dark web. There, the profiteering and panic buying of a global health crisis is on chilling display. As deaths have passed 1.2 million globally, hundreds of thousands of ads touting Covid-19 scams have come and gone in dark web markets, which during more normal times are venues for the sale of drugs, guns, pornography and a variety of stolen property, including digital identities. While accessing the dark web doesn’t involve complex gadgetry or knowledge, it’s not a place where most users find themselves. Many of the transactions there are illegal, and the use of aliases is the norm. For the last few months, Bloomberg News has been exploring these underground sites and channels to investigate the extent Covid-19 has reshaped the dark web’s illicit markets and created new opportunities for its denizens.

In the first months of the pandemic, vendors mostly specialized in hard-to-find Covid commodities, including medical equipment and test kits. By late summer, stolen digital identities were being sold specifically with the purpose of defrauding government programs meant to help small businesses and the unemployed. More recently, dark web profiteers have offered so-called vaccines for those unwilling to wait for final government approvals. In all, almost \$100 million worth of Covid-related goods have been listed for sale on the dark web, according to a forthcoming

report by the CTI League, a coalition of cybersecurity researchers investigating the intersection of Covid-19 and the internet. In a survey of 25 of the largest dark web marketplaces, the CTI league found that 10% included Covid-related branding.

It's virtually impossible to know how lucrative this market has been for sellers. But the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes predicted in June that narcotics peddlers would pivot to Covid-themed products, suggesting that enough desperate buyers exist for sellers to make money.

"Covid has been like one big Black Friday sale for the dark web," said the CTI League's Sean O'Connor. "It's a marketing tool on the dark web that's resulted in a net positive for dark web vendors."

In April, the U.N. pointed to the trafficking of Covid commodities and financial fraud as an early indicator of what's to come. As scientists and disease control experts emerge from the diagnosis and testing phase and move into the treatment and prevention phases, so too will scammers, according to the international organization.

Some already have. One recent "vaccine" ad claimed to come from a lab technician with access to treatment that's been tested but which the ad said wouldn't be public for years.

"The whole world is panicking about a virus that was made by humans," reads the ad, selling vials of what it claimed was a successful Covid vaccine for \$25,000. "I got access to the lab that is mass producing the vaccine for this disease. It has tested on Israeli patients and it works." Another peddles a conspiracy theory about how private labs are hoarding vaccines to drive up their price. But for a lucky few, the seller "snuck vials out of the lab that have been confirmed by Israel's Minister for Science and Technology." The vials are on sale for five bitcoin, or about \$77,000, hawked by its seller with an apocalyptic claim. This is the "only option to stave off death," the ad claims.

Bloomberg News reached out to this and other sellers of Covid-related products, but none returned messages seeking comment.

Of course, the problem with buying a vaccine on the dark web is there are no guarantees that it's the real stuff. Not surprisingly, there's a history of dark web merchants ripping off their customers. For instance, when masks were in short supply early in the disease's trajectory, scammers in Thailand dug them out of trash cans, repackaged them and sold them as new, according to local media reports.

"Online vendors on darknet markets have adjusted to the Covid-19 pandemic by adding various products and services to their illicit inventories," said David Maimon, director of Georgia State University's Evidence-Based Cybersecurity Research Group. "We currently see a relatively low volume of ads advertising Covid-19 commodities, yet a sharp increase in the volume of ads advertising for Covid-related financial scams."

The day's biggest stories Get caught up with the Evening Briefing. Email Enter your email Bloomberg may send me offers and promotions. Sign Up By submitting my information, I agree to the Privacy Policy and Terms of Service. The Covid gold rush has opened new uses for the vast caches of hacked material available on the dark web: criminals are using it to rip off government programs intended to help people struggling during the pandemic, according to security officials. A popular target is the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program, which has rushed \$260 billion to millions of Americans facing difficulty paying their bills. The Labor Department's Inspector General estimates the program could lose \$26 billion to fraud and waste by the time the program runs dry.

The scams work in a couple different ways but essentially boil down to fraudsters gaining access on the dark web to an individual or company's personally identifiable information – name, social

security, tax ID, date of birth and address – then using the information to fill out an application for Covid-related benefits.

Run the scam often enough and returns can add up to tens of millions of dollars, said Byung J. Pak, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia, a region that he says has been a hotbed for both medical products and financial crimes related to the pandemic. The department presently has 40 open investigations related to coronavirus crimes, most of which focus on dark net schemes aimed at stealing money from government welfare programs, Pak said.

In mid-October, the most popular scams included PUA programs in Michigan, Georgia and Arizona, according to dedicated channels on the chat app Telegram dubbed, ‘Unemployment Benefits,’ ‘Darkside Forum,’ and ‘SBA Grants & Unemployment.’ The guides are also directing users to avoid states like Kansas, Nevada and West Virginia because they had stopped paying. Washington, Massachusetts, Illinois and Ohio “can get you tracked and in trouble,” according to one guide distributed for free on the dark web.

The reason for all the guidance on the dark web is simple, according to one dark web seller who goes by the name Christopher Gentry. “The PUA pays,” he said.

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 14: Places for report 835199

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
		Earth	0	0

Table 15: Drugs for report 835199

Medicine Name	Medicine Class	Action	ATC Code
			J07

Notes:

9 Ministry seizes fake rubber gloves worth RM37,075 in Seri Kembangan, says enforcement director

Publication date	2020-11-20
Create date	2020-11-23
Score	16.25
Report id	811404
Category	Medical devices for disease prevention
Quality	Falsified
Source	Unlicensed outlets
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: Ministry seizes fake rubber gloves worth RM37,075 in Seri Kembangan, says enforcement director Malay Mail

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 16: Places for report 811404

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
South-Eastern Asia	Malaysia	Seri Kembangan	3.03333	101.71667

Table 17: Other Stories

ID	Title	Link
837964	KPDNHEP seizes fake rubber gloves worth RM37,075	Link
811738	Ministry seizes RM37k of fake rubber gloves in Selangor warehouse	Link

Notes: The Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs (KPDNHEP) Ministry seized 80 boxes of fake Max Care brand rubber gloves worth RM 37,075 in a raid on a warehouse in Seri Kembangan, Selangor yesterday. KPDNHEP Enforcement Division director Datuk Iskandar Halim Sulaiman said the raid was conducted following a complaint by the Max Care registered trademark owner representative over the sale of the fake rubber gloves. [...] "Further inspections found 1,815 empty boxes and 80 boxes containing Max Care brand rubber gloves," he said in a statement today.

Iskandar Halim said the modus operandi of the fake item sellers was to buy rubber gloves from

overseas and repackaged them in boxes bearing the Max Care brand.

”The difference between the original and the fake gloves can be seen in terms of their quality, thickness, colour, packaging and information printed on the box,” he said. [...] Meanwhile, Iskandar Halim said a total of 257 cases related to the selling of counterfeit items with seizures worth more than RM4.5 million were recorded from January to October this year.

10 Stolen Flu Vaccines Show Mexico's Black Market Adapted to Coronavirus Demand

Publication date	2020-11-25
Create date	2020-11-27
Score	16.12
Report id	818239
Category	Medical device for screening/diagnosis/monitoring, Vaccine, Anti-malarial, Antiviral others
Quality	Diverted/Unregistered
Source	Unlicensed outlets
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: Stolen Flu Vaccines Show Mexico's Black Market Adapted to Coronavirus Demand
Insightcrime.org

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 18: Places for report 818239

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Americas	Mexico	Mexico	23	-102
Americas	Brazil	Federative Republic of Brazil	-10	-55
Americas	Venezuela	Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	8	-66

Table 19: Drugs for report 818239

Medicine Name	Medicine Class	Action	ATC Code
	Influenza vaccines	viral vaccines	J07BB
			J07
hydroxychloroquine	Aminoquinolines	antimalarials	P01BA02

Notes: A flu vaccine in Mexico has become the latest drug to emerge on Latin America's burgeoning black market medicine trade, highlighting how criminal groups are increasingly providing items believed to be of help against COVID-19.

On November 15, Mexico's Federal Commission for the Protection against Sanitary Risk (Comisión

Federal para la Protección contra Riesgos Sanitarios — COFEPRIS) warned that a flu vaccine called Vaxigrip was being sold illegally online. [...] And the following day, on November 16, some 11,000 rapid COVID-19 tests were seized by customs agents at Abraham González airport in Ciudad Juárez, Vanguardia reported.

This comes just a month after over 10,000 doses of flu vaccine were stolen from a truck belonging to Mexico's Institute of Social Security (Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social – IMSS). The theft came on the heels of the government's announcement that there would be a scarcity of flu vaccines due to the pandemic, so the smugglers saw an opportunity.

Mexico's medicinal black market is by no means a new phenomenon. As previously reported by InSight Crime, 60 percent of medication sold in the country is either stolen, expired, falsified or produced without minimum quality requirements, according to the Mexican Association of Pharmaceutical Research Industries (Asociación Mexicana de Industrias de Investigación Farmacéutica – AMIF). [...] This year, whenever a real or unproven remedy has been touted as a possible cure for COVID-19, it soon appeared on the black market. Last June in Brazil, shortly after President Jair Bolsonaro touted hydroxychloroquine as a potential treatment for the coronavirus, smugglers were found bringing more than 3,000 doses illegally into Paraguay. In September in Venezuela, the first drug shown to be effective against COVID-19, remdesivir, was booming on the black market with one doctor selling it for \$800 a vial to patients at Ciudad Hospitalaria Enrique Tejera, a hospital in the city of Valencia. [...]

11 Govt cancelled ICMR's purchase orders from China for COVID-19 test kits: MoS Health Choubey

Publication date	2020-11-16
Create date	2020-11-20
Score	14.80
Report id	810419
Category	Medical device for screening/diagnosis/monitoring
Quality	Substandard
Source	Manufacturer
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: Govt cancelled ICMR's purchase orders from China for COVID-19 test kits: MoS Health Choubey ETHealthworld.com

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 20: Places for report 810419

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Southern Asia	India	Punjab	30	74
Southern Asia	India	State of Karnataka	14.66667	75.83333
Southern Asia	India	Rajasthan	26.58333	73.83333
Southern Asia	India	Republic of India	22	79

Notes: The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) had placed purchase orders for COVID-19 antibody test kits to Indian firms which were cancelled subsequently with no payment made to any Chinese company, the Lok Sabha was told on Friday. In a written reply to a question, Minister of State for Health Ashwini Choubey said the ICMR has not imported huge quantities of antibody test kits from China.

Narrating the sequence of incidents which led the government to withdraw the faulty COVID-19 antibody test kits from China and the grounds on which the import orders were cancelled, Choubey said antibody kits of M/s Aark Pharmaceuticals (Wondfo) and M/s Gene2me (Livzon) were sent to the field. [...]

12 Fake masks earn prison sentence and a ban

Publication date	2020-11-24
Create date	2020-11-25
Score	13.89
Report id	816287
Category	Medical devices for disease prevention
Quality	Falsified
Source	Manufacturer
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: Fake masks earn prison sentence and a ban SHINE

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 21: Places for report 816287

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Eastern Asia	China	Henan Sheng	34	113.66667

Notes: A man responsible for the production of fake 3M masks has been jailed for three years and three months, a court in Xuhui District said.

After his release, Sun will be banned from any involvement in mask production for five years, it added.

In November last year, police received a report of fake masks being sold online. During their investigation, officers traveled to central China's Henan Province where they seized around 50,000 fake items, including 3M labels, packaging and certificates, from a mask manufacturing factory in a village.

Sun pleaded guilty. His factory couldn't produce medical masks or dust masks and, to earn more money, he started the illegal business in May 2018, selling fakes across the country. The court said the factory had a total turnover of over 590,000 yuan (US\$89,600).

Annex

7.4 Sanitisers and disinfectants

Medicine Quality Monitoring Globe

December 14, 2020



This is a summary of the information available in the Medicine Quality Monitoring Globe for the search terms selected between the dates selected. For more information on the terminology used, caveats and the work of the medicine quality group please see the information at: <https://www.iddo.org/medicine-quality>

Non-Curated reports are those that have been automatically flagged as relevant by the system but have not been manually curated by the curators.

We would be grateful for any feedback on this summary and for the details of any reports that we may have missed.

Filters applied for this report

Search	"wipes" OR "disinfectant" OR "sanitizer" OR "sanitizing" OR "iodoform" OR "sanitiser"
Start date	2020-11-01
End date	2020-11-30
Language	en
Report type	incident
Curation status	validated
Number of Reports	11

1 Grupo Asimex de Mexico SA de CV - 609759 - 11/06/2020 - 2020-11-17

Publication date	2020-11-17
Create date	2020-11-17
Score	17.92
Report id	807248
Category	Antiseptic
Quality	Substandard
Source	Manufacturer
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: Finished Pharmaceuticals/Unapproved New Drug/Misbranded/Adulterated

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 1: Places for report 807248

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Americas	Mexico	Delegación Cuajimalpa de Morelos	19.3692	-99.29089
Americas	United States	United States	39.76	-98.5

Table 2: Drugs for report 807248

Medicine Name	Medicine Class	Action	ATC Code
ethanol	Other antiseptics and disinfectants	antiseptics and disinfectants	D08AX08
ethanol	Antidotes	all other therapeutic products	V03AB16
ethanol	Nerve depressants	all other therapeutic products	V03AZ01

Notes: Your firm recently registered as a human drug manufacturer. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) conducted testing of a consumer antiseptic rub drug product (also referred to as a consumer hand sanitizer) labeled as ANTISEPTIC Hand Sanitizer Florance Morris (8.45 floz) and ANTISEPTIC Hand Sanitizer Florance Morris (33.81 floz) (collectively "ANTISEPTIC Hand Sanitizer Florance Morris"). This drug product was manufactured at

your facility, Grupo Asimex de Mexico S.A. de C.V., FEI 3008944019, at Mario Pani No. 750 Piso 10-C, Lomas de Santa Fé, Cuajimalpa, México City 05348, Mexico. Following an attempt to import this drug product into the United States, ANTISEPTIC Hand Sanitizer Florance Morris was detained and refused admission at the border. [...] ANTISEPTIC Hand Sanitizer Florance Morris, a drug product manufactured at your facility, is labeled to contain 70% volume/volume (v/v) of the active ingredient alcohol (ethanol). However, FDA laboratory testing of two batches of this product, detained at the border, found that the first sample of the product contained an average of 19% of ethanol v/v and 2.1% methanol v/v. The second sample of the product contained an average of 27% ethanol v/v and 38% methanol v/v. Therefore, this hand sanitizer drug product is adulterated under section 501(d)(2) of the FD&C Act in that the active ingredient, ethanol, was substituted wholly or in part with methanol, a dangerous chemical when in contact with human skin or ingested. [...]

2 MXL Comercial, SA de CV - 609335 - 11/10/2020 - 2020-11-17

Publication date	2020-11-17
Create date	2020-11-17
Score	17.31
Report id	807246
Category	Antiseptic
Quality	Substandard
Source	Manufacturer
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: Finished Pharmaceuticals/Unapproved New Drug/Misbranded/Adulterated

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 3: Places for report 807246

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Americas	United States	United States	39.76	-98.5
Americas	Mexico	León	21.12908	-101.67374

Table 4: Drugs for report 807246

Medicine Name	Medicine Class	Action	ATC Code
ethanol	Other antiseptics and disinfectants	antiseptics and disinfectants	D08AX08
ethanol	Antidotes	all other therapeutic products	V03AB16
ethanol	Nerve depressants	all other therapeutic products	V03AZ01

Notes: [...] The results of FDA laboratory testing of batches of this product detained at the border demonstrate that the Hand Sanitizer Disinfectant Gel, 70% Ethyl Alcohol drug product listed as manufactured at your facility is adulterated within the meaning of section 501(d)(2) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act or the "Act"), 21 U.S.C. 351(d)(2), in that a substance was substituted wholly or in part therefor. In addition, this product is adulterated within the meaning of section 501(a)(2)(B) of the FD&C Act (21 U.S.C.

351(a)(2)(B)), in that the substitution demonstrates that the quality assurance within your facility is not functioning in accordance with Current Good Manufacturing Practice (CGMP) requirements. [...] The drug product Hand Sanitizer Disinfectant Gel, 70% Ethyl Alcohol, listed as manufactured at your facility, is labeled to contain 70% volume/volume (v/v) of the active ingredient ethyl alcohol (ethanol). However, FDA laboratory testing of batches of this product detained at the border found that your hand sanitizer contained a range of ethanol and methanol, ranging from 0% to 37% ethanol v/v and from 11% to 41% methanol v/v. This hand sanitizer drug product is adulterated under section 501(d)(2) of the FD&C Act in that the active ingredient, ethanol, was substituted wholly or in part with methanol, a dangerous chemical when in contact with human skin or ingested. [...]

3 JG Atlas Comercios, SA de CV - 609415 - 11/06/2020 - 2020-11-17

Publication date	2020-11-17
Create date	2020-11-17
Score	15.56
Report id	807313
Category	Antiseptic
Quality	Substandard
Source	Manufacturer
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: Finished Pharmaceuticals/Unapproved New Drug/Misbranded/Adulterated

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 5: Places for report 807313

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Americas	United States	United States	39.76	-98.5
Americas	Mexico	Zapopan	20.72356	-103.38479

Table 6: Drugs for report 807313

Medicine Name	Medicine Class	Action	ATC Code
ethanol	Other antiseptics and disinfectants	antiseptics and disinfectants	D08AX08
ethanol	Antidotes	all other therapeutic products	V03AB16
ethanol	Nerve depressants	all other therapeutic products	V03AZ01
	Antiseptics	throat preparations	R02AA

Notes: Your firm recently registered as a human drug manufacturer. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) conducted testing of a consumer antiseptic drug product labeled as Sayab Antiseptic Hand Sanitizer. This drug product was labeled as manufactured at your facility, JG Atlas Comercios S.A. de C.V., Trueno No. 871 Paraisos Del Colli, Zapopan, Mexico. Following an attempt to import this drug product into the United States, Sayab Antiseptic Hand Sanitizer

was detained and refused admission at the border. [...] Sayab Antiseptic Hand Sanitizer, a drug product labeled as manufactured at your facility, is labeled to contain 70% of the active ingredient alcohol (ethanol). FDA tested four batches of this product detained at the border. The first sample contained an average of 0.1% ethanol volume/volume (v/v) and 62% methanol v/v. The second sample contained an average of 0.1% ethanol v/v and 68% methanol v/v. The third sample contained an average of 10% of ethanol v/v and 57% methanol v/v. The fourth sample contained an average of less than 0.3% of ethanol v/v and 63% methanol v/v. Therefore, this consumer antiseptic drug product is adulterated under section 501(d)(2) of the FD&C Act in that the active ingredient of ethanol was substituted wholly or in part with methanol, a dangerous chemical when in contact with human skin or ingested. [...]

4 4E Global, S.A.P.I. de C.V. - 608940 - 10/23/2020 - 2020-11-03

Publication date	2020-11-03
Create date	2020-12-08
Score	14.00
Report id	791003
Category	Antiseptic
Quality	Substandard
Source	Manufacturer
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: CGMP/Finished Pharmaceuticals/Unapproved New Drug/Misbranded/Adulterated

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Table 7: Places for report 791003

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Americas	Mexico	Mexico	23	-102
Americas	United States	United States	39.76	-98.5

Notes: Your firm is registered as a human drug manufacturer. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) conducted testing of consumer antiseptic hand rub drug products (also referred to as consumer hand sanitizers), labeled as blumen Advanced Instant Hand Sanitizer Clear Ethyl Alcohol 70% and blumen Clear Advanced Hand Sanitizer Extra Soft. These drug products were declared as being manufactured at your facility, 4E Global S.A.P.I de C.V. FEI 3010078513, at Av. Uno Notre No. 15 Bodega 1F Parque Industrial Cartagena Tultitlan 54918 Mexico and, following an attempt to import these drug products into the United States, blumen Advanced Instant Hand Sanitizer Clear Ethyl Alcohol 70% and blumen Clear Advanced Hand Sanitizer Extra Soft were detained and refused admission at the border. [...]. The drug product blumen Advanced Instant Hand Sanitizer Clear Ethyl Alcohol 70% is labeled to contain 70% volume/volume (v/v) of the active ingredient alcohol (ethanol). However, FDA laboratory testing found that this product contained an average of 0.2% ethanol and 74% of methanol v/v. Another sample of the same product contained an average of 14% ethanol and 65% of methanol v/v. Additionally, blumen Clear Advanced Hand Sanitizer Extra Soft is labeled to contain 70% v/v of the active ingredient alcohol (ethanol). However, FDA laboratory testing found that your blumen Clear Advanced Hand Sanitizer Extra Soft contained an average of 6.6% ethanol and 69% methanol v/v. Three additional samples of blumen Clear Advanced Hand Sanitizer Extra Soft was tested and the first sample contained an average of <5% ethanol and 74% methanol

v/v. The second sample contained an average of 8.9% ethanol and 65% methanol v/v. The third sample contained an average of 0% ethanol and 70% methanol v/v. These drug products are adulterated under section 501(d)(2) of the Act in that the active ingredient of ethanol was substituted wholly or in part with methanol, a dangerous chemical when in contact with human skin or ingested. [...] ["sanitizer"]

5 Grupo Insoma, S.A.P.I de CV - 608768 - 10/23/2020 - 2020-11-03

Publication date	2020-11-03
Create date	2020-11-04
Score	13.66
Report id	791004
Category	Antiseptic
Quality	Substandard
Source	Manufacturer
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: CGMP/Finished Pharmaceuticals/Unapproved New Drug/Misbranded/Adulterated

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Table 8: Places for report 791004

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Americas	Mexico	Cuautitlán	19.67052	-99.17989
Americas	United States	United States	39.76	-98.5

Notes: Your firm was recently registered as a human drug manufacturer. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) conducted testing of a consumer antiseptic hand rub (also referred to as consumer hand sanitizers), labeled as Hand Sanitizer Gel Unscented 70% Alcohol 1000Lts (also referred to as "Hand Sanitizer Gel"). This drug product was listed as manufactured at your facility, Grupo Insoma, S.A.P.I. de C.V. Antoine Lavoisier #31 Cuanutitlan Mexico (FEI 3016750033). Following an attempt to import this drug product into the United States, Hand Sanitizer Gel Unscented 70% Alcohol 1000Lts was detained and refused admission at the border. [...] Hand Sanitizer Gel Unscented 70% Alcohol 1000Lts, listed as manufactured at your facility, is labeled to contain 70% volume/volume (v/v), of the active ingredient ethyl alcohol (ethanol). However, FDA laboratory testing of batches of this product detained at the border found that the hand sanitizer contained 0% ethanol and greater than 60% methanol v/v. Therefore, this hand sanitizer drug product is adulterated under section 501(d)(2) of the Act in that the active ingredient, ethanol, was substituted wholly or in part with methanol, a dangerous chemical when in contact with human skin or ingested. [...]

6 Claims Other Than COVID-19 Surface But Contaminated Sanitizer Spreads In US Warnings

Publication date	2020-11-17
Create date	2020-11-17
Score	12.99
Report id	807738
Category	Antiseptic
Quality	Substandard
Source	Clandestine laboratory
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: Claims Other Than COVID-19 Surface But Contaminated Sanitizer Spreads In US Warnings HBW Insight

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Table 9: Places for report 807738

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Americas	United States	United States	39.76	-98.5

Notes: (Full Text not available) – FDA inspectors in the eastern US took their turn recently at finding violations for dietary supplement manufacturing marketing unrelated to COVID-19. Agency also warned two more Mexican businesses that exploited its temporary loosening of regulations for producing alcohol-based hand sanitizers. [...]

7 Asiaticon, SA de CV - 609162 - 10/29/2020 - 2020-11-03

Publication date	2020-11-03
Create date	2020-11-04
Score	12.86
Report id	791002
Category	Antiseptic
Quality	Substandard
Source	Manufacturer
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: CGMP/Finished Pharmaceuticals/Unapproved New Drug/Misbranded/Adulterated

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 10: Places for report 791002

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Americas	Mexico	Conkal	21.08143	-89.51683
Americas	United States	United States	39.76	-98.5

Notes: Your firm recently registered as a human drug manufacturer. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) conducted testing of testing of a consumer antiseptic hand rub drug product (also referred to as a consumer hand sanitizer) labeled as V-KLEAN HAND SANITIZER GEL. This product was labeled as manufactured at your facility, Asiaticon S.A. de C.V., FEI 3016691209 at Conkal No. 62, Ciudad de Mexico 14200, Mexico. Following an attempt to import this drug product into the United States, V-KLEAN HAND SANITIZER GEL was detained and refused admission at the border. [...] V-KLEAN HAND SANITIZER GEL, a drug product labeled as manufactured at your facility, is labeled to contain 70% volume/volume (v/v) of the active ingredient ethyl alcohol (ethanol). However, FDA laboratory testing of a batch of this product detained at the border found that the product contained an average of 33% ethanol and an average of 38% methanol v/v. Therefore, this hand sanitizer drug product is adulterated under section 501(d)(2) of the FD&C Act in that the active ingredient of ethanol was substituted wholly or in part with methanol, a dangerous chemical when in contact with human skin or ingested. [...]

8 Lohxa LLC Issues Voluntary Nationwide Recall of Chlorhexidine Gluconate Oral Rinse USP, 0.12% Due to Microbial Contamination

Publication date	2020-11-09
Create date	2020-11-10
Score	4.67
Report id	798399
Category	Antiseptic
Quality	Substandard
Source	Manufacturer
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: Lohxa LLC Issues Voluntary Nationwide Recall of Chlorhexidine Gluconate Oral Rinse USP, 0.12% Due to Microbial Contamination FDA.gov

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 11: Places for report 798399

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Americas	United States	United States	39.76	-98.5

Table 12: Drugs for report 798399

Medicine Name	Medicine Class	Action	ATC Code
chlorhexidine	Antiinfectives and antiseptics for local oral treatment	stomatological preparations	A01AB03
chlorhexidine	Antiinfectives	irrigating solutions	B05CA02
chlorhexidine	Biguanides and amidines	antiseptics and disinfectants	D08AC02
chlorhexidine	Medicated dressings with antiinfectives	medicated dressings	D09AA12
chlorhexidine	Antiseptics	throat preparations	R02AA05
chlorhexidine	Other antiinfectives	antiinfectives	S01AX09

Table 12: Drugs for report 798399(continued)

Medicine Name	Medicine Class	Action	ATC Code
chlorhexidine	Antiinfectives	antiinfectives	S02AA09
chlorhexidine	Antiinfectives	antiinfectives	S03AA04

Table 13: Other Stories

ID	Title	Link
798430	Lohxa LLC Issues Voluntary Nationwide Recall of Chlorhexidine Gluconate Oral Rinse USP, 0.12% Due to Microbial Contamination - 2020-11-09	Link

Notes: Lohxa, LLC is voluntarily recalling Chlorhexidine Gluconate Oral Rinse USP, 0.12% Alcohol free (NDC:70166-027-15) products bearing an expiration date from 01/31/21 – 03/31/21 (see specific lots below) to the consumer level. This product is sourced and repackaged from Sunstar Americas Inc. who has notified us the product may be contaminated with the bacteria *Burkholderia lata*. [...]

9 Animal drug co. accused of selling tainted meds

Publication date	2020-11-04
Create date	2020-11-05
Score	3.94
Report id	792461
Category	Veterinary medicines
Quality	Substandard
Source	Manufacturer
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: Animal drug co. accused of selling tainted meds VeterinaryPracticeNews.com

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 14: Places for report 792461

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Americas	United States	California	37.25022	-119.75126

Table 15: Other Stories

ID	Title	Link
798641	Department of Justice Files Complaint Against California Company To Stop Distribution of Adulterated Animal Drugs	Link
792770	Department of Justice Files Complaint Against California Company To Stop Distribution of Adulterated Animal Drugs	Link

Notes: A California company stands accused of manufacturing and distributing adulterated animal drugs, according to the Department of Justice (DOJ).

A civil complaint filed against Med-Pharmex, Inc. (MPX) alleges multiple inspections by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) showed a failure to conform to current good manufacturing practices (cGMPs), including maintaining sterility of its animal drugs, DOJ reports. According to the complaint, the FDA issued a warning letter to MPX in 2017 regarding what is says were numerous deficiencies at the company, including failure to clean and disinfect areas used to manufacture sterile medications. [...]

10 5 recent drug, device recalls

Publication date	2020-11-20
Create date	2020-11-23
Score	3.80
Report id	811907
Category	Anxiolytic, Antiseptic, Antidiabetic, Medical device used for cure/mitigation/treatment
Quality	Substandard
Source	Manufacturer
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: 5 recent drug, device recalls Becker's Hospital Review

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 16: Places for report 811907

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Americas	United States	United States	39.76	-98.5

Table 17: Drugs for report 811907

Medicine Name	Medicine Class	Action	ATC Code
metformin	Biguanides	blood glucose lowering drugs, excl. insulins	A10BA02
chlorhexidine	Antiinfectives and antiseptics for local oral treatment	stomatological preparations	A01AB03
chlorhexidine	Antiinfectives	irrigating solutions	B05CA02
chlorhexidine	Biguanides and amidines	antiseptics and disinfectants	D08AC02
chlorhexidine	Medicated dressings with antiinfectives	medicated dressings	D09AA12
chlorhexidine	Antiseptics	throat preparations	R02AA05
chlorhexidine	Other antiinfectives	antiinfectives	S01AX09
chlorhexidine	Antiinfectives	antiinfectives	S02AA09

Table 17: Drugs for report 811907(continued)

Medicine Name	Medicine Class	Action	ATC Code
chlorhexidine	Antiinfectives	antiinfectives	S03AA04
dexmedetomidine	Other hypnotics and sedatives	hypnotics and sedatives	N05CM18

Table 18: Other Stories

ID	Title	Link
814118	Recall: Lidocaine Identified in Dexmedetomidine Vials	Link

Notes: Medical device and drug recalls, whether voluntary or mandated by the FDA, ensure patient safety. Here are five reported to the FDA since the end of October:

1. Fresenius Kabi recalls sedative due to lidocaine contamination Fresenius Kabi has recalled one lot of its sedative drug, dexmedetomidine, after finding it contains trace amounts of lidocaine, an anesthetic.
2. Stryker recalls device for treating blood clots after 1 death, 11 injuries Stryker has recalled a device intended to treat blood clots during a stroke after finding a risk it may break during use. The devicemaker said it has received reports of one death and 11 injuries related to this issue.
3. Medtronic recalls heart catheter after 1 death, 2 injuries Medtronic has recalled its Rashkind balloon catheter after reports of a patient death and two patient injuries.
4. Missouri drugmaker latest to recall metformin over carcinogen A Kansas City, Mo.-based drugmaker, Nostrum Laboratories, has become the latest company to recall its diabetes drug, metformin, after finding it contains unacceptably high levels of a carcinogen.
5. Sunstar recalls gingivitis drug due to potential bacterial contamination Medical supply company Sunstar Americas has recalled its gingivitis oral rinse, proex chlorhexidine gluconate, after finding it may be contaminated with bacteria.

11 COVID-19 vaccines selling for \$24k on black market

Publication date	2020-11-13
Create date	2020-11-16
Score	3.53
Report id	803482
Category	Other, Vaccine, Medical devices for disease prevention, Anti-malarial, Antibiotic
Quality	Falsified
Source	Website(s)
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: COVID-19 vaccines selling for \$24k on black market Noosa News

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 19: Places for report 803482

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Melanesia	Australia	Noosa Heads	-26.39433	153.0901

Table 20: Drugs for report 803482

Medicine Name	Medicine Class	Action	ATC Code
	Antidotes	all other therapeutic products	V03AB
			J07
azithromycin	Macrolides	macrolides, lincosamides and streptogramins	J01FA10
azithromycin	Antibiotics	antiinfectives	S01AA26
hydroxychloroquine	Aminoquinolines	antimalarials	P01BA02

Notes: COVID-19 vaccines are already being sold on the black market for up to \$24,000 and experts say Australian players are involved in the illegal activity. Australian National University academic Professor Rob Broadhurst uncovered 12 markets on the dark web selling COVID-19 related products including 22 vaccines and the blood of patients who had recovered from the virus. [...] Professor Broadhurst found a total of 645 COVID-19-related products for sale on the dark web, one third of which were unique listings, once repeat listings on different sites were accounted for. Dark website Agartha listed 444 COVID-19 related products while DarkBay

offered 118 COVID-19 related listings. [...] Personal protective equipment such as masks, sanitisers, gowns and gloves accounted for about half of all the unique listings. Medicines were the next most common products, accounting for a third of the unique listings (74) and included the drugs hydroxychloroquine, antibiotic azithromycin and the antiviral medicine favipiravir. Vaccines and antidotes made up about six per cent of all listings, he said. [...]

Annex

7.5 COVID-19 medicines

Medicine Quality Monitoring Globe

December 14, 2020



This is a summary of the information available in the Medicine Quality Monitoring Globe for the search terms selected between the dates selected. For more information on the terminology used, caveats and the work of the medicine quality group please see the information at: <https://www.iddo.org/medicine-quality>

Non-Curated reports are those that have been automatically flagged as relevant by the system but have not been manually curated by the curators.

We would be grateful for any feedback on this summary and for the details of any reports that we may have missed.

Filters applied for this report

Search ("tranilast" OR "interleukin-2" OR "INC424" OR "TNKase" OR "nitazoxanide" OR "LY3832479" OR "baloxavir" OR "interleukin-7" OR "Kineret" OR "ritonavir" OR "Crizanlizumab" OR "Apixaban" OR "cyclosporin" OR "losartan" OR "ATI-450" OR "nitrogen monoxide" OR "tirofiban" OR "Ebselen" OR "corbistadine" OR "atorvastatin" OR "Eicosapentaenoic" OR "nitrite" OR "Riamilovir" OR "NK-1R" OR "Pemziviptadil" OR "colchicine" OR "Lithium" OR "Vancomycin" OR "Broncho-Vaxom" OR "ramipril" OR "Teicoplanin" OR "tofacitinib" OR "budesonide" OR "Paracetamol" OR "dipyridamole" OR "levamisole" OR "atovaquone" OR "Senicapoc" OR "covid drug" OR "enoxaparin" OR "Brequinar" OR "povidone-iodine" OR "levilimab" OR "degarelix" OR "LY3819253" OR "Sofusbovir" OR "masitinib" OR "Omega-3" OR "INM005" OR "RBT-9" OR "deferroxamine" OR "canakinumab" OR "Ramelteon" OR "chlorpromazine" OR "selinexor" OR "Piclidenoson" OR "DAS181" OR "M5049" OR "Ibudilast" OR "CM4620-IE" OR "GNS561" OR "zanubrutinib" OR "Cenicriviroc" OR "sofosbovir" OR "Trimethoprim" OR "vadadustat" OR "AVM0703" OR "Rabeprazole" OR "Moxifloxacin" OR "cobicistat" OR "BAT2020" OR "ABX464" OR "XAV-19" OR "thalidomide" OR "GX-19" OR "corticosteroid" OR "Tradipitant" OR "cotrimoxazole" OR "HuMax-Inflam" OR "Apilimod" OR "DUR-928" OR "escin" OR "PF-06650833"

OR "octagam" OR "Antroquinonol" OR "pacritinib" OR "Imatinib" OR "ribavirin"
OR "ambrisentan" OR "baricitinib" OR "imatinib" OR "CD24Fc" OR "Sulodexide"
OR "AlloStim" OR "DFV890" OR "Emapalumab" OR "sitagliptin" OR "Metformin" OR
"prednisone" OR "ulinastatin" OR "naltrexone" OR "abidor" OR "niclosamide" OR
"BI0101" OR "GS-441524" OR "argatroban" OR "Leukine" OR "xiyanping" OR "pegin-
terferon" OR "pembrolizumab" OR "HuMax" OR "Lambda" OR "dornase" OR "Itracona-
zole" OR "telemedicine" OR "Adenosine" OR "Curosurf" OR "clarithromycin" OR
"bromhexine" OR "Xpovio" OR "ebastine" OR "amoxicillin/clavulanate" OR "PD-1
mAb" OR "oseltamivir" OR "Betamethasone" OR "favipiravir" OR "mefloquine" OR
"bismuth" OR "CM4620" OR "ifenprodil" OR "Levofloxacin" OR "REGN10987" OR "Can-
desartan" OR "secukinumab" OR "Trihexyphenidyl" OR "Daclatasvir" OR "pinavir"
OR "tocilizumab" OR "co-amoxiclav" OR "EG-HPCP-03a" OR "hydroxychloroquine" OR
"Polyoxidonium" OR "STI-5656" OR "Artesunate" OR "triazavirine" OR "Disulfiram"
OR "cholecalciferol" OR "INO-4800" OR "PG1" OR "zinc" OR "oxytocin" OR "gim-
silumab" OR "suramin" OR "rhG-CSF" OR "desferoxamine" OR "TD-0903" OR "OM-85"
OR "Bucillamine" OR "pirfenidone" OR "Acetaminophen" OR "adamumab" OR "sul-
famethoxazole" OR "BI 764198" OR "RPH-104" OR "COVID-19 drug" OR "alpha lipoic"
OR "almitrine" OR "melphalan" OR "TMJ2" OR "dapagliflozin" OR "NBT-NM108" OR
"Icosapent" OR "Ceftriaxone" OR "isoprinosine" OR "IMU-838" OR "tridecactide" OR
"chloroquine" OR "CSL324" OR "Lian Hua Qing Weng" OR "Kevzara" OR "valsartan" OR
"mepiluzumab" OR "Namilumab" OR "Prednisolone" OR "sargramostim" OR "estradiol"
OR "cyclosporine" OR "Aprepitant" OR "silymarin" OR "linagliptin" OR "Noscapi-
ne" OR "Gemtuzumab" OR "methylprednisolone" OR "fluvoxamine" OR "Coroquard" OR
"mavrilimumab" OR "anakinra" OR "ozanimod" OR "mepolizumab" OR "acetylsalicylic"
OR "darunavir" OR "novaferon" OR "YinHu QingWen" OR "OM85" OR "camrelizumab" OR
"Cosentyx" OR "estrogen" OR "dexmedetomidine" OR "LL-37" OR "Dantonix" OR "ri-
varoxaban" OR "adalimumab" OR "apremilast" OR "polyinosinic-polycytidylic" OR
"farpiravir" OR "montelukast" OR "Ibuprofen" OR "IFX-1" OR "Iodine" OR "Molnupi-
ravir" OR "Pioglitazone" OR "verapamil" OR "Rapamycin" OR "Brexanolone" OR "El-
trombopag" OR "ravulizumab" OR "hydrocortisone" OR "auxora" OR "tinzaparin" OR
"Vascepa" OR "omalizumab" OR "Tybost" OR "Actemra" OR "dociparastat" OR "NA-831"
OR "ascorbic acid" OR "MAS825" OR "C21" OR "RoActemra" OR "eculizumab" OR "Bi-
valirudin" OR "povidon-iodine" OR "ivermectin" OR "Pamrevlumab" OR "danoprevir"
OR "Neurokinin" OR "sirolimus" OR "Fostamatinib" OR "resveratrol" OR "Icatibant"
OR "bromelain" OR "dexamethasone" OR "TJ003234" OR "iloprost" OR "tacrolimus" OR
"astegolimab" OR "interferon" OR "plitidepsin" OR "metenkefalin" OR "azoximer"
OR "lopinavir" OR "Tazobactam" OR "carrimycin" OR "CM-4620" OR "CYT107" OR
"Heparin" OR "Pyronaridine-Artesunate" OR "Itolizumab" OR "zilucoplan" OR "ox-
pentifylline" OR "AT-001" OR "Abivertinib" OR "doxycycline" OR "Nigella Sativa"
OR "AZD1222" OR "Ieronlimab" OR "Enalapril" OR "nangibotide" OR "Piperacillin"
OR "bevacizumab" OR "lactoferrin" OR "UTTR1147A" OR "Caesalpinia spinosa" OR
"mometasone" OR "hydroxychloroquin" OR "Febuxostat" OR "lanadelumab" OR "Thymal-
fasin" OR "huaier extract" OR "Levoflozacin" OR "Pentoxifylline" OR "tozumab" OR
"NP-120" OR "Alvelestat" OR "captopril" OR "merimepodib" OR "lota-Carrageenan"
OR "Lianhua Qingwen" OR "GLS-1200" OR "aescinate" OR "tranexamic" OR "Ledi-
pasvir" OR "ISIS 721744" OR "procalcitonin" OR "SNDX-6352" OR "sirukumab" OR
"Enzalutamide" OR "carrimycin" OR "bemiparin" OR "T89" OR "Spironolactone" OR
"fingolimod" OR "aspirin" OR "Remdesivir" OR "pyridostigmine" OR "Prolastin"
OR "EC-18" OR "poractant" OR "isotretinoin" OR "telmisartan" OR "TJM2 TJM-2"

OR "lenzilumab" OR "avdoralimab" OR "duvelisib" OR "BIO 300" OR "bicalutamide" OR "Ilaris" OR "atlizumab" OR "desferrioxamine" OR "LB1148" OR "vitamin D3" OR "Clopidogrel" OR "CD24" OR "tetrandrine" OR "Lansoprazole" OR "Ruconest" OR "amoxicillin" OR "Trifluoperazine" OR "Ganovo" OR "nitric Oxide" OR "chlorine dioxide" OR "olokizumab" OR "lucinactant" OR "galidesivir" OR "TXA127" OR "Maraviroc" OR "conestat" OR "CA S001" OR "vazegepant" OR "REGN10933" OR "Propranolol" OR "Fisetin" OR "Previfenon" OR "omega 3" OR "thymosin" OR "Prasugrel" OR "retinoic acid" OR "Ceftaroline" OR "sevoflurane" OR "amoxicillin/clavulanic acid" OR "oestrogen" OR "leflunomide" OR "virazole" OR "PLN-74809" OR "ATYR1923" OR "Olumiant" OR "dalargin" OR "Alinia" OR "methotrexate" OR "dapan-sutril" OR "artemisinin" OR "ibrutinib" OR "aescin" OR "CERC-002" OR "fludase" OR "isoflurane" OR "XPro1595" OR "LY-CoV555" OR "CAS0001" OR "immunoglobulin" OR "nafamostat" OR "Crocetinate" OR "Diphenhydramine" OR "BIO 101" OR "AZD1656" OR "PTC299" OR "amodiaquine" OR "casirivimab" OR "BGB-DXP593" OR "opaganib" OR "melatonin" OR "huaier granule" OR "HuMax-IL8" OR "famotidine" OR "GLS-1027" OR "Trimodulin" OR "tenofovir" OR "Primaquine" OR "AMY-101" OR "umifenovir" OR "EDP1815" OR "Vitamin B12" OR "Gamunex-C" OR "Bardoxolone" OR "AstroStem-V" OR "LAU-7b" OR "Vitamin E" OR "Vitamin B" OR "RTB101" OR "curcumin" OR "fondaparinux" OR "Edoxaban" OR "L-Citrulline" OR "ciclesonide" OR "azithromycin" OR "remdesivir" OR "Diltiazem" OR "Methylene blue" OR "clazakizumab" OR "BCX4430" OR "Pyronaridine" OR "Quercetin" OR "Toremifene" OR "COVI-AMG" OR "etoposide" OR "DWJ1248" OR "defibrotide" OR "AT-527" OR "prazosin" OR "triazavirin" OR "BIO300" OR "Ensifentrine" OR "Anti-IL-8" OR "dihydroartemisinin" OR "vitamin c" OR "25-hydroxyvitamin D3" OR "coronavirus drug" OR "formoterol" OR "indomethacin" OR "Rayaldee" OR "ciclosporin" OR "naproxen" OR "fluoxetine" OR "Infliximab" OR "Tenecteplase" OR "ruxolitinib" OR "Molgramostim" OR "vitamin D" OR "simvastatin" OR "alteplase" OR "sildenafil" OR "isoquercetin" OR "GC4419" OR "ketamine" OR "Razuprotafib" OR "camostat" OR "Arbidol" OR "Montmorrillonite" OR "acalabrutinib" OR "nivolumab" OR "aviptadil" OR "PUL-042" OR "diammonium" OR "Clevudine" OR "nitrogen oxide" OR "BMS-986253" OR "siltuximab" OR "interleukin 2" OR "jakotinib" OR "nintedanib" OR "Axatilimab" OR "garadacimab" OR "Treamid" OR "ASC09" OR "emtricitabine" OR "LY-CoV016" OR "Pulmozyme" OR "Prostaglandin" OR "ciclosporine" OR "hydrogen peroxide" OR "sarilumab" OR "Losmapimod" OR "azvudine" OR "BLD-2660" OR "EIDD-2801" OR "MSTT1041A" OR "Desidustat" OR "abidole" OR "omeprazole" OR "progesterone" OR "Decitabine" OR "tocopherol" OR "berberine" OR "APL-9" OR "colomycin" OR "XC221" OR "amiodarone" OR "lenalidomide" OR "imdevimab" OR "ixekizumab" OR "VentaProst" OR "acetylcysteine" OR "LY3127804" OR "Atazanavir" OR "TL-895" OR "dalteparin" OR "Thimerosal" OR "Xue-Bi-Jing" OR "GC376" OR "Angiotensin" OR "gs-441542" OR "Risankizumab" OR "co-trimoxazole") OR (("Plasma" OR "Treatment" OR "Monoclonal antibodies" OR "Medication" OR "Antibody therapy" OR "Antibody cocktail") AND ("CV19" OR "新冠病毒" OR "武汉新型冠状病毒" OR "非典" OR "SARS" OR "CoV-2" OR "vi rút corona" OR "武汉肺炎" OR "COVID-19" OR "COVID" OR "新冠疫情" OR "新型冠状病毒肺炎" OR "SARS-CoV-2" OR "CV" OR "Coronavirus" OR "CV-19" OR "SRAS" OR "新型冠状病毒" OR "新冠"))

Start date	2020-11-01
End date	2020-11-30
Language	en

Report type	incident
Curation status	validated
Number of Reports	29

1 COVID-19 vaccines selling for \$24k on black market

Publication date	2020-11-13
Create date	2020-11-16
Score	40.07
Report id	803482
Category	Other, Vaccine, Medical devices for disease prevention, Anti-malarial, Antibiotic
Quality	Falsified
Source	Website(s)
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: COVID-19 vaccines selling for \$24k on black market Noosa News

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 1: Places for report 803482

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Melanesia	Australia	Noosa Heads	-26.39433	153.0901

Table 2: Drugs for report 803482

Medicine Name	Medicine Class	Action	ATC Code
	Antidotes	all other therapeutic products	V03AB
			J07
azithromycin	Macrolides	macrolides, lincosamides and streptogramins	J01FA10
azithromycin	Antibiotics	antiinfectives	S01AA26
hydroxychloroquine	Aminoquinolines	antimalarials	P01BA02

Notes: COVID-19 vaccines are already being sold on the black market for up to \$24,000 and experts say Australian players are involved in the illegal activity. Australian National University academic Professor Rob Broadhurst uncovered 12 markets on the dark web selling COVID-19 related products including 22 vaccines and the blood of patients who had recovered from the virus. [...] Professor Broadhurst found a total of 645 COVID-19-related products for sale on the dark web, one third of which were unique listings, once repeat listings on different sites were accounted for. Dark website Agarthra listed 444 COVID-19 related products while DarkBay

offered 118 COVID-19 related listings. [...] Personal protective equipment such as masks, sanitisers, gowns and gloves accounted for about half of all the unique listings. Medicines were the next most common products, accounting for a third of the unique listings (74) and included the drugs hydroxychloroquine, antibiotic azithromycin and the antiviral medicine favipiravir. Vaccines and antidotes made up about six per cent of all listings, he said. [...]

2 Stolen Flu Vaccines Show Mexico's Black Market Adapted to Coronavirus Demand

Publication date	2020-11-25
Create date	2020-11-27
Score	36.21
Report id	818239
Category	Medical device for screening/diagnosis/monitoring, Vaccine, Anti-malarial, Antiviral others
Quality	Diverted/Unregistered
Source	Unlicensed outlets
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: Stolen Flu Vaccines Show Mexico's Black Market Adapted to Coronavirus Demand
Insightcrime.org

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 3: Places for report 818239

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Americas	Mexico	Mexico	23	-102
Americas	Brazil	Federative Republic of Brazil	-10	-55
Americas	Venezuela	Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	8	-66

Table 4: Drugs for report 818239

Medicine Name	Medicine Class	Action	ATC Code
	Influenza vaccines	viral vaccines	J07BB
			J07
hydroxychloroquine	Aminoquinolines	antimalarials	P01BA02

Notes: A flu vaccine in Mexico has become the latest drug to emerge on Latin America's burgeoning black market medicine trade, highlighting how criminal groups are increasingly providing items believed to be of help against COVID-19.

On November 15, Mexico's Federal Commission for the Protection against Sanitary Risk (Comisión

Federal para la Protección contra Riesgos Sanitarios — COFEPRIS) warned that a flu vaccine called Vaxigrip was being sold illegally online. [...] And the following day, on November 16, some 11,000 rapid COVID-19 tests were seized by customs agents at Abraham González airport in Ciudad Juárez, Vanguardia reported.

This comes just a month after over 10,000 doses of flu vaccine were stolen from a truck belonging to Mexico's Institute of Social Security (Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social – IMSS). The theft came on the heels of the government's announcement that there would be a scarcity of flu vaccines due to the pandemic, so the smugglers saw an opportunity.

Mexico's medicinal black market is by no means a new phenomenon. As previously reported by InSight Crime, 60 percent of medication sold in the country is either stolen, expired, falsified or produced without minimum quality requirements, according to the Mexican Association of Pharmaceutical Research Industries (Asociación Mexicana de Industrias de Investigación Farmacéutica – AMIF). [...] This year, whenever a real or unproven remedy has been touted as a possible cure for COVID-19, it soon appeared on the black market. Last June in Brazil, shortly after President Jair Bolsonaro touted hydroxychloroquine as a potential treatment for the coronavirus, smugglers were found bringing more than 3,000 doses illegally into Paraguay.

In September in Venezuela, the first drug shown to be effective against COVID-19, remdesivir, was booming on the black market with one doctor selling it for \$800 a vial to patients at Ciudad Hospitalaria Enrique Tejera, a hospital in the city of Valencia. [...]

3 Dark Web Has Become a Marketplace for ‘Vaccines’ and Other Pandemic Scams

Publication date	2020-11-11
Create date	2020-12-11
Score	23.34
Report id	835199
Category	Other, Medical device for screening/diagnosis/monitoring, Medical devices for disease prevention, Vaccine
Quality	Falsified
Source	Website(s)
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: Following Donald Trump’s quick recovery from Covid-19 last month, advertisements appeared on the dark web — the seamy underbelly of the internet — selling what they claimed was Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc.’s drug that the president touted as a ‘miracle’ cure – even though it hadn’t yet been approved for public sale.

In May, with coronavirus cases surging around the world and no end in sight, a supposed Spanish laboratory doctor promised Covid-19 infected blood and sputum. It wasn’t clear if it was offered because it might contain protective antibodies or as a way to infect an unwitting enemy. Either way the price for the treatment was \$100 for two syringes. And back in April, when intensive care units worldwide were flooded with Covid-19 patients gasping for air, a seller on the dark web promised ventilators ”in bulk supply.” Buyers bought at least 300, according to the seller, identified only as JhonCliff.

Just as the pandemic has upended the buying and selling of goods like toilet paper, airplane seats and Vermont real estate, it has roiled the mostly illegal markets that thrive on the dark web. There, the profiteering and panic buying of a global health crisis is on chilling display. As deaths have passed 1.2 million globally, hundreds of thousands of ads touting Covid-19 scams have come and gone in dark web markets, which during more normal times are venues for the sale of drugs, guns, pornography and a variety of stolen property, including digital identities. While accessing the dark web doesn’t involve complex gadgetry or knowledge, it’s not a place where most users find themselves. Many of the transactions there are illegal, and the use of aliases is the norm. For the last few months, Bloomberg News has been exploring these underground sites and channels to investigate the extent Covid-19 has reshaped the dark web’s illicit markets and created new opportunities for its denizens.

In the first months of the pandemic, vendors mostly specialized in hard-to-find Covid commodities, including medical equipment and test kits. By late summer, stolen digital identities were being sold specifically with the purpose of defrauding government programs meant to help small businesses and the unemployed. More recently, dark web profiteers have offered so-called vaccines for those unwilling to wait for final government approvals. In all, almost \$100 million worth of Covid-related goods have been listed for sale on the dark web, according to a forthcoming

report by the CTI League, a coalition of cybersecurity researchers investigating the intersection of Covid-19 and the internet. In a survey of 25 of the largest dark web marketplaces, the CTI league found that 10% included Covid-related branding.

It's virtually impossible to know how lucrative this market has been for sellers. But the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes predicted in June that narcotics peddlers would pivot to Covid-themed products, suggesting that enough desperate buyers exist for sellers to make money.

"Covid has been like one big Black Friday sale for the dark web," said the CTI League's Sean O'Connor. "It's a marketing tool on the dark web that's resulted in a net positive for dark web vendors."

In April, the U.N. pointed to the trafficking of Covid commodities and financial fraud as an early indicator of what's to come. As scientists and disease control experts emerge from the diagnosis and testing phase and move into the treatment and prevention phases, so too will scammers, according to the international organization.

Some already have. One recent "vaccine" ad claimed to come from a lab technician with access to treatment that's been tested but which the ad said wouldn't be public for years.

"The whole world is panicking about a virus that was made by humans," reads the ad, selling vials of what it claimed was a successful Covid vaccine for \$25,000. "I got access to the lab that is mass producing the vaccine for this disease. It has tested on Israeli patients and it works." Another peddles a conspiracy theory about how private labs are hoarding vaccines to drive up their price. But for a lucky few, the seller "snuck vials out of the lab that have been confirmed by Israel's Minister for Science and Technology." The vials are on sale for five bitcoin, or about \$77,000, hawked by its seller with an apocalyptic claim. This is the "only option to stave off death," the ad claims.

Bloomberg News reached out to this and other sellers of Covid-related products, but none returned messages seeking comment.

Of course, the problem with buying a vaccine on the dark web is there are no guarantees that it's the real stuff. Not surprisingly, there's a history of dark web merchants ripping off their customers. For instance, when masks were in short supply early in the disease's trajectory, scammers in Thailand dug them out of trash cans, repackaged them and sold them as new, according to local media reports.

"Online vendors on darknet markets have adjusted to the Covid-19 pandemic by adding various products and services to their illicit inventories," said David Maimon, director of Georgia State University's Evidence-Based Cybersecurity Research Group. "We currently see a relatively low volume of ads advertising Covid-19 commodities, yet a sharp increase in the volume of ads advertising for Covid-related financial scams."

The day's biggest stories Get caught up with the Evening Briefing. Email Enter your email Bloomberg may send me offers and promotions. Sign Up By submitting my information, I agree to the Privacy Policy and Terms of Service. The Covid gold rush has opened new uses for the vast caches of hacked material available on the dark web: criminals are using it to rip off government programs intended to help people struggling during the pandemic, according to security officials. A popular target is the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program, which has rushed \$260 billion to millions of Americans facing difficulty paying their bills. The Labor Department's Inspector General estimates the program could lose \$26 billion to fraud and waste by the time the program runs dry.

The scams work in a couple different ways but essentially boil down to fraudsters gaining access on the dark web to an individual or company's personally identifiable information – name, social

security, tax ID, date of birth and address – then using the information to fill out an application for Covid-related benefits.

Run the scam often enough and returns can add up to tens of millions of dollars, said Byung J. Pak, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia, a region that he says has been a hotbed for both medical products and financial crimes related to the pandemic. The department presently has 40 open investigations related to coronavirus crimes, most of which focus on dark net schemes aimed at stealing money from government welfare programs, Pak said.

In mid-October, the most popular scams included PUA programs in Michigan, Georgia and Arizona, according to dedicated channels on the chat app Telegram dubbed, ‘Unemployment Benefits,’ ‘Darkside Forum,’ and ‘SBA Grants & Unemployment.’ The guides are also directing users to avoid states like Kansas, Nevada and West Virginia because they had stopped paying. Washington, Massachusetts, Illinois and Ohio “can get you tracked and in trouble,” according to one guide distributed for free on the dark web.

The reason for all the guidance on the dark web is simple, according to one dark web seller who goes by the name Christopher Gentry. “The PUA pays,” he said.

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 5: Places for report 835199

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
		Earth	0	0

Table 6: Drugs for report 835199

Medicine Name	Medicine Class	Action	ATC Code
			J07

Notes:

4 Criminal gangs are making billions from fake medical supplies during COVID

Publication date	2020-11-23
Create date	2020-11-24
Score	22.24
Report id	815477
Category	Medical device for screening/diagnosis/monitoring, Vaccine, Medical devices for disease prevention, Anti-malarial, Antibiotic
Quality	Falsified
Source	Website(s)
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: Criminal gangs are making billions from fake medical supplies during COVID The Spectator US

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 7: Places for report 815477

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Americas	United States	United States	39.76	-98.5

Table 8: Drugs for report 815477

Medicine Name	Medicine Class	Action	ATC Code
	Antibiotics	intestinal antiinfectives	A07AA
	Antibiotics	agents for treatment of hemorrhoids and anal fissures for topical use	C05AB
	Antibiotics	antifungals for topical use	D01AA
	Antibiotics	antiinfectives and anti-septics, excl. combinations with corticosteroids	G01AA
	Antibiotics	antimycotics for systemic use	J02AA
	Antibiotics	drugs for treatment of tuberculosis	J04AB

Table 8: Drugs for report 815477(continued)

Medicine Name	Medicine Class	Action	ATC Code
	Antibiotics	throat preparations	R02AB
	Antibiotics	antiinfectives	S01AA
		antimalarials	P01B
			J07
chloroquine	Aminoquinolines	antimalarials	P01BA01

Notes: [...] Since early June, Customs and Border Protection has seized more than 107,000 FDA-prohibited COVID-19 test kits, 750,000 counterfeit face masks, thousands of EPA-prohibited anti-virus lanyards, 11,000 FDA-prohibited chloroquine tables and more than 67,000 ACCU-CHEK test strips. [...] The Department of Homeland Security notes that the counterfeit market in the US has increased tenfold since 2000. The majority of these counterfeit goods are sold online. The most current numbers are even more disheartening: since the start of the pandemic in January, sale of online counterfeit goods have jumped 40 percent over 2019. The FDA has issued letters to seven companies for selling fraudulent COVID-19 products, including teas, essential oils and colloidal silver. In addition, the FDA issued a temporary injunction against a company selling bleach as a ‘miracle cure’ for coronavirus. Consider too that the PPE manufacturer 3M has filed 12 lawsuits against fake PPE providers who falsely claimed to be selling genuine N95 masks, often at vastly inflated prices. And things are poised to get worse. When a coronavirus vaccine or life-saving medications are developed, unprecedented demand will drive increases in the theft and counterfeiting of these medicines. [...] Based on \$4.3 billion in counterfeit drug seizures between 2014 and 2016, custom agents found that antibiotics are the drugs most often targeted by counterfeiters. More than 35.4 percent of the drugs seized were marketed as antibiotics, while antimalarials ranked fourth, accounting for 8.9 percent of seized drugs. Tragically, forensic tests of suspected samples show that in 90 percent of cases, counterfeit medicines can harm patients. [...]

5 Fusion Health and Vitality Issues Voluntary Nationwide Recall of Core Essential Nutrients and Immune Boost Liquid Vitamin D3 - Press Release

Publication date	2020-11-22
Create date	2020-11-24
Score	18.48
Report id	814170
Category	Nutritional supplement
Quality	Substandard
Source	Manufacturer
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: Fusion Health and Vitality Issues Voluntary Nationwide Recall of Core Essential Nutrients and Immune Boost Liquid Vitamin D3 - Press Release Digital Journal

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 9: Places for report 814170

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Americas	United States	Alpharetta	34.07538	-84.29409

Table 10: Other Stories

ID	Title	Link
815723	If You Take These Popular Supplements, Stop Now	Link
817030	If you take these vitamins, stop immediately and throw them out	Link
815277	Fusion Health and Vitality Issues Voluntary Nationwide Recall of Core Essential Nutrients and Immune Boost Sublingual Vitamin D3 Due to the Unapproved Use of a Food Additive and Unapproved Marketing Statements	Link
815340	Fusion Health and Vitality Issues Voluntary Nationwide Recall of Core Essential Nutrients and Immune Boost Sub	Link

Notes: Fusion Health and Vitality LLC is voluntarily recalling all 2020 Lots of CORE essential nutrients and Immune Boost Sublingual Vitamin D3. CORE has been found to contain an unapproved food additive, hordenine HCl, rendering it adulterated. Immune Boost Labeling was found to contain statements that caused it to become an unapproved new drug under FDA labeling laws. Hordenine HCl is possibly unsafe when taken by mouth. Hordenine HCl might have similar stimulant effects and side effects such as rapid heart rate and high blood pressure. [...]

6 5 recent drug, device recalls

Publication date	2020-11-20
Create date	2020-11-23
Score	15.06
Report id	811907
Category	Anxiolytic, Antiseptic, Antidiabetic, Medical device used for cure/mitigation/ treatment
Quality	Substandard
Source	Manufacturer
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: 5 recent drug, device recalls Becker's Hospital Review

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Table 11: Places for report 811907

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Americas	United States	United States	39.76	-98.5

Table 12: Drugs for report 811907

Medicine Name	Medicine Class	Action	ATC Code
metformin	Biguanides	blood glucose lowering drugs, excl. insulins	A10BA02
chlorhexidine	Antiinfectives and antiseptics for local oral treatment	stomatological preparations	A01AB03
chlorhexidine	Antiinfectives	irrigating solutions	B05CA02
chlorhexidine	Biguanides and amidines	antiseptics and disinfectants	D08AC02
chlorhexidine	Medicated dressings with antiinfectives	medicated dressings	D09AA12
chlorhexidine	Antiseptics	throat preparations	R02AA05
chlorhexidine	Other antiinfectives	antiinfectives	S01AX09
chlorhexidine	Antiinfectives	antiinfectives	S02AA09

Table 12: Drugs for report 811907(continued)

Medicine Name	Medicine Class	Action	ATC Code
chlorhexidine	Antiinfectives	antiinfectives	S03AA04
dexmedetomidine	Other hypnotics and sedatives	hypnotics and sedatives	N05CM18

Table 13: Other Stories

ID	Title	Link
814118	Recall: Lidocaine Identified in Dexmedetomidine Vials	Link

Notes: Medical device and drug recalls, whether voluntary or mandated by the FDA, ensure patient safety. Here are five reported to the FDA since the end of October:

1. Fresenius Kabi recalls sedative due to lidocaine contamination Fresenius Kabi has recalled one lot of its sedative drug, dexmedetomidine, after finding it contains trace amounts of lidocaine, an anesthetic.
2. Stryker recalls device for treating blood clots after 1 death, 11 injuries Stryker has recalled a device intended to treat blood clots during a stroke after finding a risk it may break during use. The devicemaker said it has received reports of one death and 11 injuries related to this issue.
3. Medtronic recalls heart catheter after 1 death, 2 injuries Medtronic has recalled its Rashkind balloon catheter after reports of a patient death and two patient injuries.
4. Missouri drugmaker latest to recall metformin over carcinogen A Kansas City, Mo.-based drugmaker, Nostrum Laboratories, has become the latest company to recall its diabetes drug, metformin, after finding it contains unacceptably high levels of a carcinogen.
5. Sunstar recalls gingivitis drug due to potential bacterial contamination Medical supply company Sunstar Americas has recalled its gingivitis oral rinse, proex chlorhexidine gluconate, after finding it may be contaminated with bacteria.

7 Europe : One of the world's biggest illegal medicines distributors arrested! - 2020-11-16

Publication date	2020-11-16
Create date	2020-11-17
Score	14.66
Report id	806006
Category	Other, Antiretroviral, Antiviral others, Antibiotic, Erectile dysfunction medicine
Quality	Falsified
Source	Website(s)
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: An investigation was launched in Spain in 2018 following the discovery of a criminal organization that was distributing all sorts of medicines online (erectile dysfunction treatments, antibiotics, cancer medicines, and alleged COVID-19 and HIV medicines). Several house searches were carried out; Continue reading; The post Europe : One of the world's biggest illegal medicines distributors arrested! appeared first on .

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 14: Places for report 806006

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
		Europe	48.69096	9.14062

Table 15: Drugs for report 806006

Medicine Name	Medicine Class	Action	ATC Code
	Antibiotics	intestinal antiinfectives	A07AA
	Antibiotics	agents for treatment of hemorrhoids and anal fissures for topical use	C05AB
	Antibiotics	antifungals for topical use	D01AA
	Antibiotics	antiinfectives and antiseptics, excl. combinations with corticosteroids	G01AA
	Antibiotics	antimycotics for systemic use	J02AA

Table 15: Drugs for report 806006(continued)

Medicine Name	Medicine Class	Action	ATC Code
	Antibiotics	drugs for treatment of tuberculosis	J04AB
	Antibiotics	throat preparations	R02AB
	Antibiotics	antiinfectives	S01AA

Notes: An investigation was launched in Spain in 2018 following the discovery of a criminal organization that was distributing all sorts of medicines online (erectile dysfunction treatments, antibiotics, cancer medicines, and alleged COVID-19 and HIV medicines). Several house searches were carried out and 25 people were arrested. After analyzing the electronic equipment seized during the investigation, the Spanish police was able to determine that a German citizen, who lives in Singapore, was the head of the illegal medicines distribution racket in a significant number of countries throughout the world. The investigation also revealed that the man was an established businessman in Singapore. On 13 October, police and law officers arrested the suspect and his partner in Munich. The suspect's partner was distributing illegal medicines in Germany. Officers seized goods worth 1.5 million, three upmarket vehicles, electric vehicles, luxury watches, crypto coins worth 600,000 and IT equipment.

8 Grain German Shepherd Pills Found To Contain Undeclared Sildenafil And Paracetamol

Publication date	2020-11-12
Create date	2020-11-15
Score	14.35
Report id	801468
Category	Erectile dysfunction medicine, Antipyretic
Quality	Substandard
Source	Clandestine laboratory
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: Grain German Shepherd Pills Found To Contain Undeclared Sildenafil And Paracetamol Myhealthyclick

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Table 16: Places for report 801468

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Melanesia	Australia	Commonwealth of Australia	-25	135

Table 17: Drugs for report 801468

Medicine Name	Medicine Class	Action	ATC Code
sildenafil	Drugs used in erectile dysfunction	urologicals	G04BE03
paracetamol	Anilides	other analgesics and antipyretics	N02BE01

Notes: The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), which is the regulatory body for therapeutic products in Australia, has tested a product called Grain German Shepherd tablets and found that they contain an undeclared amount of sildenafil citrate (Viagra) and paracetamol (Tylenol). [...] The TGA found that the sale of Grain German Shepherd tablets containing unapproved and undisclosed sildenafil and paracetamol in Australia is illegal.

The Australian drug regulatory body did not assess Grain German Shepherd pills quality stan-

dards, safety, or efficacy as required under the nation's legislation. Also, the place of manufacture has not been approved by the TGA. [...]

9 Senegal : Illicit medicines seized on Warang beach - 2020-11-16

Publication date	2020-11-16
Create date	2020-11-17
Score	14.21
Report id	806065
Category	Other, Anti-inflammatory medicine, Antibiotic, Medicine for allergy
Quality	Falsified
Source	Unknown
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: Officials seized a massive quantity of medicines following a tip off that suspicious bags had been hidden on Warang beach. According to a media report, the haul contained 180 boxes of Cyproheptadine – 100 tablets, 400 boxes of Dyclosa – … Continue reading → The post Senegal : Illicit medicines seized on Warang beach appeared first on .

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 18: Places for report 806065

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Western Africa	Senegal	Warang	14.37349	-16.94366

Table 19: Drugs for report 806065

Medicine Name	Medicine Class	Action	ATC Code
ceftriaxone	Third-generation cephalosporins	other beta-lactam antibiotics	J01DD04
diclofenac	Other dermatologicals	other dermatological preparations	D11AX18
diclofenac	Acetic acid derivatives and related substances	antiinflammatory and antirheumatic products, non-steroids	M01AB05
diclofenac	Antiinflammatory preparations, non-steroids for topical use	topical products for joint and muscular pain	M02AA15

Table 19: Drugs for report 806065(continued)

Medicine Name	Medicine Class	Action	ATC Code
diclofenac	Antiinflammatory agents, non-steroids	antiinflammatory agents	S01BC03
cyproheptadine	Other antihistamines for systemic use	antihistamines for systemic use	R06AX02
amoxicillin	Penicillins with extended spectrum	beta-lactam antibacterials, penicillins	J01CA04

Notes: Officials seized a massive quantity of medicines following a tip off that suspicious bags had been hidden on Warang beach. According to a media report, the haul contained 180 boxes of Cyproheptadine – 100 tablets, 400 boxes of Dyclosa – 100 tablets, 450 boxes of Colocaps cohrensa – 100 tablets, 300 boxes of Diclofenac – 200 tablets, 4000 boxes of Ceftriaxone injections, 4000 boxes of amoxicillin – 100 capsules. The estimated value of the haul is 32,486,000 CFA Francs.

10 Sabinsa Reaches Out To US Regulators To Squeeze Fake Vitamin C Out Of Ingredient Markets

Publication date	2020-11-30
Create date	2020-12-11
Score	13.43
Report id	827230
Category	Vitamin
Quality	Falsified
Source	Unknown
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: Sabinsa Reaches Out To US Regulators To Squeeze Fake Vitamin C Out Of Ingredient Markets HBW Insight

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 20: Places for report 827230

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Americas	United States	United States	39.76	-98.5

Table 21: Other Stories

ID	Title	Link
829000	Sabinsa sends FDA and FTA documentation of adulterated amla ingredient	Link
833976	Sabinsa Reaches Out To US Regulators To Squeeze Fake Vitamin C Out Of Ingredient Markets	Link

Notes: [Full access to the text not available] Sabinsa provided FDA and FTC with documentation of "an ingredient falsely marketed and sold as vitamin C derived from amla fruit (*Embllica officinalis*), which two independent labs have confirmed is actually derived from corn, sugarcane or other plants."

11 Govt cancelled ICMR's purchase orders from China for COVID-19 test kits: MoS Health Choubey

Publication date	2020-11-16
Create date	2020-11-20
Score	13.14
Report id	810419
Category	Medical device for screening/diagnosis/monitoring
Quality	Substandard
Source	Manufacturer
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: Govt cancelled ICMR's purchase orders from China for COVID-19 test kits: MoS Health Choubey ETHealthworld.com

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 22: Places for report 810419

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Southern Asia	India	Punjab	30	74
Southern Asia	India	State of Karnataka	14.66667	75.83333
Southern Asia	India	Rajasthan	26.58333	73.83333
Southern Asia	India	Republic of India	22	79

Notes: The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) had placed purchase orders for COVID-19 antibody test kits to Indian firms which were cancelled subsequently with no payment made to any Chinese company, the Lok Sabha was told on Friday. In a written reply to a question, Minister of State for Health Ashwini Choubey said the ICMR has not imported huge quantities of antibody test kits from China.

Narrating the sequence of incidents which led the government to withdraw the faulty COVID-19 antibody test kits from China and the grounds on which the import orders were cancelled, Choubey said antibody kits of M/s Aark Pharmaceuticals (Wondfo) and M/s Gene2me (Livzon) were sent to the field. [...]

12 Combating unauthorized and counterfeit goods during COVID-19 pandemic

Publication date	2020-11-05
Create date	2020-11-05
Score	13.12
Report id	793903
Category	Other, Medical device for screening/diagnosis/monitoring, Medical devices for disease prevention
Quality	Falsified
Source	Land point of entry
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: Combating unauthorized and counterfeit goods during COVID-19 pandemic Mirage News

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 23: Places for report 793903

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Americas	Canada	Vancouver	49.24966	-123.11934

Table 24: Other Stories

ID	Title	Link
794652	Test kits, PPE and pills: Unauthorized, counterfeit COVID-related goods seized at B.C. border	Link
793983	Authorities combating unauthorized and counterfeit goods during pandemic	Link
793990	Canadians Stop, Seize More Than 380 Shipments of Unauthorized COVID Supplies and Tests	Link
794026	Project Purify nets counterfeit COVID-19 related goods	Link
794074	Canadian border agents seize fake, unauthorized COVID-19 tests and PPEs News	Link

Notes: The Government of Canada continues to take action to prevent the importation of

unauthorized or illegal health products at border crossings across Canada.

On November 5, 2020, the CBSA, Health Canada and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) announced the results of a Government of Canada initiative to combat unauthorized or counterfeit goods attempting to enter Canada through British Columbia. [...] During this period, over 380 shipments of unauthorized content or counterfeit COVID-19-related goods were detained at the border, including:

48,000 COVID-19 test kits; 4.5 million units of personal protective equipment; 33,000 prescription tablets and pills; and over 1,500 other intercepts of fraudulent and potentially dangerous products. The CBSA seized mislabelled or improperly declared goods, and referred others to Health Canada, who then seized or refused entry. [...]

13 Government starts legal action against face mask suppliers

Publication date	2020-11-13
Create date	2020-11-17
Score	8.38
Report id	802796
Category	Medical devices for disease prevention
Quality	Substandard
Source	Distributor/Wholesaler
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: Government starts legal action against face mask suppliers The Brussels Times

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 25: Places for report 802796

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Europe	Belgium	Kingdom of Belgium	50.75	4.5

Notes: At the start of the Covid-19 crisis, Belgium was faced with a critical shortage of face masks. The government itself had destroyed a strategic stock of some 27 million masks, and then found itself having to compete on a world market under huge pressure of demand. [...] And legal action has been initiated against four other suppliers: marketing and distribution company IC Pharma based in Auderghem in Brussels; infection control specialists UltraZonic from Zandhoven in Antwerp province; and two others more mysterious, Life medical from Schelle, also in Antwerp province, and Qingdao LuoTa Management. The four companies together were responsible for the delivery of 25 million FFP2 masks. "These matters are now in the hands of our lawyers," a spokesperson for the health ministry told the paper, declining to give more details.

De Morgen also contacted UltraZonic, a company which specialises in the cleaning of endoscopes and other surgical instruments. The company said it was itself involved in legal action against its supplier, after the masks delivered turned out to be of substandard quality.

14 Diabetes drug recalled

Publication date	2020-11-03
Create date	2020-11-04
Score	7.70
Report id	790944
Category	Antidiabetic
Quality	Substandard
Source	Manufacturer
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: Diabetes drug recalled Springfield Business Journal

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 26: Places for report 790944

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Americas	United States	Kansas	38.50029	-98.50063

Table 27: Drugs for report 790944

Medicine Name	Medicine Class	Action	ATC Code
metformin	Biguanides	blood glucose lowering drugs, excl. insulins	A10BA02

Table 28: Other Stories

ID	Title	Link
791315	Nostrum Laboratories issues voluntary recall of contaminated metformin products	Link
792383	Type 2 Diabetes Drug Recalled Due to Potential Contamination with Carcinogen	Link
797257	Type 2 diabetes drug recalled over concerns medication contaminated with possible carcinogen	Link
791479	Type 2 diabetes drug recalled over concerns medication contaminated with possible carcinogen	Link
817862	Type 2 diabetes drug metformin recalled due to contamination with possible carcinogen	Link

Notes: Kansas City-based Nostrum Laboratories Inc. issued a recall for metformin, a type 2 diabetes medication.

The medication could possibly be contaminated with unsafe levels of nitrosamine, or NDMA, a potentially cancer-causing compound.

The impacted product is packaged in high-density polyethylene bottles of 100 tablets.

15 Maharashtra: Counterfeit masks using leading brand's name major concern for manufacturer; cases, raids in many cities

Publication date	2020-11-09
Create date	2020-11-10
Score	7.34
Report id	798410
Category	Medical devices for disease prevention
Quality	Falsified
Source	Clandestine laboratory
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: Maharashtra: Counterfeit masks using leading brand's name major concern for manufacturer; cases, raids in many cities The Indian Express

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 29: Places for report 798410

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Southern Asia	India	Ghāziābād	28.66535	77.43915

Table 30: Other Stories

ID	Title	Link
800153	Counterfeiting news: Face masks, currency notes	Link

Notes: One of India's leading mask manufacturers Venus Safety and Health Private Ltd has issued at least 38 legal notices during the Covid-19 pandemic to owners of manufacturing units that produce counterfeit masks using the company's brand name. As demand for masks continues in the pandemic, counterfeiting has remained an issue of concern. [...] In the latest case on November 3, Sahibabad police in Ghaziabad raided a manufacturing unit and found 7,562 fake masks with brand name Venus 4400 N-95. The FIR stated the manufacturer had used a white cloth and put a fake Venus seal to sell the masks. The police have named one Amit Mohan as the accused in the FIR. Mohan was a cloth bag manufacturer who bought a machine and started producing masks, selling them under the brand name of Venus and 3M. [...] These masks have made way into not just street-side stalls of hawkers, but also into chemist shops and e-pharmacy portals. In another FIR on October 15 by Dum Dum police station, 8,600 fake

masks of 3M and 9,100 masks of Venus were recovered from a shop. A 30-year-old shop owner, Abhijit Ghosh, has been named accused. [...]

16 Thunder Bay Police Remove \$225k in Illegal Drugs and Arrest Four in Drug Sting

Publication date	2020-11-03
Create date	2020-11-04
Score	6.31
Report id	791234
Category	Opioid
Quality	Falsified
Source	Clandestine laboratory
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: Thunder Bay Police Remove \$225k in Illegal Drugs and Arrest Four in Drug Sting
Net Newsledger

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 31: Places for report 791234

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Americas	Canada	Thunder Bay	48.38202	-89.25018

Table 32: Drugs for report 791234

Medicine Name	Medicine Class	Action	ATC Code
oxycodone and paracetamol	Opioids in combination with non-opioid analgesics	opioids	N02AJ17

Table 33: Other Stories

ID	Title	Link
791316	Police seize quantities of drugs with value of nearly \$225K in Thunder Bay	Link
792147	Four charged after police seize \$225K in drugs (2 photos)	Link

Notes: Thunder Bay Police have determined the estimated street value of drugs seized in two incidents last week totalling nearly \$225,000. [...] The police located a quantity of Fentanyl, Cocaine, and suspected fake Percocet pills potentially containing Fentanyl. [...]

17 Teen Deaths on the Rise: Fentanyl overdoses prompt targeted campaigns in Prescott

Publication date	2020-11-24
Create date	2020-11-25
Score	6.23
Report id	817204
Category	Opioid
Quality	Falsified
Source	Unlicensed outlets
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: Teen Deaths on the Rise: Fentanyl overdoses prompt targeted campaigns in Prescott Navajo-Hopi Observer

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 34: Places for report 817204

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Americas	United States	Prescott Valley	34.61002	-112.31572

Table 35: Drugs for report 817204

Medicine Name	Medicine Class	Action	ATC Code
oxycodone	Natural opium alkaloids	opioids	N02AA05

Notes: [...] This year in Yavapai County, there have been 33 deaths, with another 10 last year. Since MatForce started a county-wide fatality review board five years ago, there have been more than 50 fentanyl-related fatal overdoses. [...] The then-16-year-old Caleb Benjamin stunned students with his candor about his presence at the death of a friend who suffered a fatal overdose from ingesting three fentanyl-laced Percocet pills at a party they attended in Phoenix. He implored his peers to find their thrills in ways other than swallowing a pill that could kill them or someone they love. [...] Just grains of the counterfeit fentanyl put into aspirin, Xanax, Percocet, or any number of known prescription pills, can prove deadly, whether it's the first time someone tries it or they are a repeat user, Fowler said.

18 Man charged with supplying drugs that killed 2 Rochester Hills brothers, teenage girl

Publication date	2020-11-09
Create date	2020-11-10
Score	5.74
Report id	798397
Category	Opioid
Quality	Falsified
Source	Unknown
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: Man charged with supplying drugs that killed 2 Rochester Hills brothers, teenage girl
The Oakland Press

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 36: Places for report 798397

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Americas	United States	Michigan	44.25029	-85.50033

Table 37: Drugs for report 798397

Medicine Name	Medicine Class	Action	ATC Code
oxycodone and paracetamol	Opioids in combination with non-opioid analgesics	opioids	N02AJ17

Notes: A 20-year-old man from Lake Orion is facing drug charges in connection with the deaths of two brothers and a teenage girl who overdosed at an Oakland County hotel this past summer. [...] Rebecca Kiessling of Rochester Hills, Caleb and Kyler's mother, said her sons' cause of death was fentanyl poisoning, which she believes came from them ingesting what was disguised as Percocet but was actually the other drug, an extremely potent opioid. Soon after the deaths, local teenagers pegged Brabo as the alleged drug supplier and provided that information to police, Kiessling said. Following an investigation by the Auburn Hills Police Department and the Oakland County Sheriff's Narcotics Enforcement Team, Brabo was booked into the Oakland County Jail on Nov. 6. [...]

19 Public Notification: Stree Overlord contains hidden drug ingredients - 2020-11-24

Publication date	2020-11-24
Create date	2020-12-10
Score	5.55
Report id	836578
Category	Nutritional supplement
Quality	Substandard
Source	Manufacturer
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: The Food and Drug Administration is advising consumers not to purchase or use Stree Overlord, a product promoted for sexual enhancement. This product was identified during an examination of imported goods.

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 38: Places for report 836578

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Americas	United States	United States	39.76	-98.5

Notes: [...] FDA laboratory analysis confirmed that Stree Overlord contains sildenafil and ciprofloxacin. Sildenafil is the active ingredient in Viagra, an FDA-approved prescription drug for erectile dysfunction. FDA's approval of Viagra is restricted to use under the supervision of a licensed health care professional. This undeclared ingredient may interact with nitrates found in some prescription drugs, such as nitroglycerin, and may lower blood pressure to dangerous levels. People with diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or heart disease often take nitrates. Ciprofloxacin is the active ingredient in Cipro, an FDA-approved prescription drug in a class of drugs called fluoroquinolone antibiotics used to treat bacterial infections. Fluoroquinolones are associated with disabling and potentially permanent side effects of the tendons, muscles, joints, nerves, and the central nervous system. [...]

20 Pharmaceutical products seized from a perfume store in Kuwait

Publication date	2020-11-22
Create date	2020-11-24
Score	4.79
Report id	813450
Category	Other, Antiseptic, Dermatological medicine, Antitussive
Quality	Diverted/Unregistered
Source	Unknown
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: Pharmaceutical products seized from a perfume store in Kuwait ZAWYA

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 39: Places for report 813450

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Western Asia	Kuwait	State of Kuwait	29.5	47.75

Table 40: Drugs for report 813450

Medicine Name	Medicine Class	Action	ATC Code
clobetasol	Corticosteroids, very potent (group IV)	corticosteroids, plain	D07AD01

Notes: The Medicine Inspection Department in the Food and Medicine Control Administration at the Ministry of Health announced that it seized a number of pharmaceutical products from a perfume store in Sabah Al-Salem area, reports Al-Anba daily. Director of the department Dr. Reem Khalaf Al-Issa said, "Despite the laws regulating the practice of the pharmaceutical profession, and the circulation and trade of medicines and medical products, many shops sell medicines and medical products illegally. The department has repeatedly monitored many violations, the most prominent of which is perhaps the sale of the ointment Dermovate, which is a pharmaceutical product that contains cortisone and is used for treating some skin diseases. [...] During the inspection tour, an inspector from the Medicine Inspection Department Walid Hammoud explained that a big quantity of this ointment, which is used as a skin whitener for

women, was seized. It was obtained from an unknown source and without purchase invoices. Also, a sizeable quantity of the AXE branded product, which is used to help relieve symptoms of cold, was also seized along with other pharmaceutical products for cold, body and abdominal pain, as they were supplied by an unknown source and not by the local agent.

In his statement, inspector Abdulrahman Al-Shammari indicated that other medical products were also seized, including the Sudocrem used for treating skin conditions such as rashes, burns, dry skin, and Greenson paint used in the treatment of hemorrhoids, burns, acne and dry skin.

He said, "All of these products were available in the store without invoices and were supplied by unknown sources. There was no evidence to guarantee their safety and correctness of their ingredients. The sellers said they were not aware of the sources of these products but they were constantly sold to customers". [...]

21 Public Notification: U.S.A Viagra contains hidden drug ingredient - 2020-11-24

Publication date	2020-11-24
Create date	2020-12-10
Score	4.51
Report id	836577
Category	Nutritional supplement
Quality	Substandard
Source	Manufacturer
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: The Food and Drug Administration is advising consumers not to purchase or use U.S.A Viagra, a product promoted for sexual enhancement. This product was identified during an examination of imported goods.

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 41: Places for report 836577

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Americas	United States	United States	39.76	-98.5

Notes: [...] FDA laboratory analysis confirmed that U.S.A Viagra contains sildenafil, the active ingredient in Viagra, an FDA-approved prescription drug for erectile dysfunction. FDA's approval of Viagra is restricted to use under the supervision of a licensed health care professional. This undeclared ingredient may interact with nitrates found in some prescription drugs, such as nitroglycerin, and may lower blood pressure to dangerous levels. People with diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or heart disease often take nitrates. [...]

22 Public Notification: Vigorous Man contains hidden drug ingredient - 2020-11-18

Publication date	2020-11-18
Create date	2020-11-19
Score	4.51
Report id	809084
Category	Nutritional supplement
Quality	Substandard
Source	Other
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: The Food and Drug Administration is advising consumers not to purchase or use Vigorous Man, a product promoted for sexual enhancement. This product was identified during an examination of international mail shipments. The shipment was addressed to an Amazon Fulfillment Center.

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 42: Places for report 809084

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Americas	United States	United States	39.76	-98.5

Table 43: Other Stories

ID	Title	Link
809085	Public Notification: Livtone contains hidden drug ingredients - 2020-11-18	Link

Notes: The Food and Drug Administration is advising consumers not to purchase or use Vigorous Man, a product promoted for sexual enhancement. This product was identified during an examination of international mail shipments. The shipment was addressed to an Amazon Fulfillment Center.

FDA laboratory analysis confirmed that Vigorous Man contains sildenafil, the active ingredient in Viagra, an FDA-approved prescription drug for erectile dysfunction. FDA's approval of Viagra is restricted to use under the supervision of a licensed health care professional. [...]

23 Public Notification: Magnum XXL 9800 contains hidden drug ingredient - 2020-11-24

Publication date	2020-11-24
Create date	2020-12-10
Score	4.42
Report id	836585
Category	Nutritional supplement
Quality	Substandard
Source	Manufacturer
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: The Food and Drug Administration is advising consumers not to purchase or use Magnum XXL 9800, a product promoted for sexual enhancement. This product was identified during an examination of imported goods.

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 44: Places for report 836585

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Americas	United States	United States	39.76	-98.5

Table 45: Other Stories

ID	Title	Link
836586	Public Notification: Magnum XXL 50K contains hidden drug ingredient - 2020-11-24	Link

Notes: [...] FDA laboratory analysis confirmed that Magnum XXL 9800 contains sildenafil, the active ingredient in Viagra, an FDA-approved prescription drug for erectile dysfunction. FDA's approval of Viagra is restricted to use under the supervision of a licensed health care professional. This undeclared ingredient may interact with nitrates found in some prescription drugs, such as nitroglycerin, and may lower blood pressure to dangerous levels. People with diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or heart disease often take nitrates. [...]

24 Public Notification: Herb Viagra Male Sexual Stimulant contains hidden drug ingredient - 2020-11-24

Publication date	2020-11-24
Create date	2020-12-10
Score	4.42
Report id	836587
Category	Nutritional supplement
Quality	Substandard
Source	Manufacturer
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: The Food and Drug Administration is advising consumers not to purchase or use Herb Viagra Male Sexual Stimulant, a product promoted for sexual enhancement. This product was identified during an examination of imported goods.

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 46: Places for report 836587

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Americas	United States	United States	39.76	-98.5

Notes: [...] FDA laboratory analysis confirmed that Herb Viagra Male Sexual Stimulant contains sildenafil, the active ingredient in Viagra, an FDA-approved prescription drug for erectile dysfunction. FDA's approval of Viagra is restricted to use under the supervision of a licensed health care professional. This undeclared ingredient may interact with nitrates found in some prescription drugs, such as nitroglycerin, and may lower blood pressure to dangerous levels. People with diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or heart disease often take nitrates. [...]

25 Public Notification: V8 Super Energy contains hidden drug ingredient - 2020-11-24

Publication date	2020-11-24
Create date	2020-12-10
Score	4.42
Report id	836576
Category	Nutritional supplement
Quality	Substandard
Source	Manufacturer
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: The Food and Drug Administration is advising consumers not to purchase or use V8 Super Energy, a product promoted for sexual enhancement. This product was identified during an examination of imported goods.

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 47: Places for report 836576

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Americas	United States	United States	39.76	-98.5

Notes: [...] FDA laboratory analysis confirmed that V8 Super Energy contains sildenafil, the active ingredient in Viagra, an FDA-approved prescription drug for erectile dysfunction. FDA's approval of Viagra is restricted to use under the supervision of a licensed health care professional. This undeclared ingredient may interact with nitrates found in some prescription drugs, such as nitroglycerin, and may lower blood pressure to dangerous levels. People with diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or heart disease often take nitrates. [...]

26 Public Notification: Rhinozen 69 Platinum 25000 contains hidden drug ingredient - 2020-11-24

Publication date	2020-11-24
Create date	2020-12-10
Score	4.42
Report id	836579
Category	Nutritional supplement
Quality	Substandard
Source	Manufacturer
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: The Food and Drug Administration is advising consumers not to purchase or use Rhinozen 69 Platinum 25000, a product promoted for sexual enhancement. This product was identified during an examination of imported goods.

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 48: Places for report 836579

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Americas	United States	United States	39.76	-98.5

Table 49: Other Stories

ID	Title	Link
836580	Public Notification: Rhino 99 Extreme 90000 contains hidden drug ingredient - 2020-11-24	Link
836581	Public Notification: Rhino 96 Platinum 77000 contains hidden drug ingredient - 2020-11-24	Link
836582	Public Notification: Rhino 69 Power 500K contains hidden drug ingredient - 2020-11-24	Link
836583	Public Notification: Rhino 69 Platinum 75000 contains hidden drug ingredient - 2020-11-24	Link
836584	Public Notification: Rhino 8 Platinum 80000 contains hidden drug ingredient - 2020-11-24	Link

Notes: [...] FDA laboratory analysis confirmed that Rhinozen 69 Platinum 25000 contains

sildenafil, the active ingredient in Viagra, an FDA-approved prescription drug for erectile dysfunction. FDA's approval of Viagra is restricted to use under the supervision of a licensed health care professional. This undeclared ingredient may interact with nitrates found in some prescription drugs, such as nitroglycerin, and may lower blood pressure to dangerous levels. People with diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or heart disease often take nitrates. [...]

27 Public Notification: Bigger Longer More Time More Sperms (sic) contains hidden drug ingredient - 2020-11-24

Publication date	2020-11-24
Create date	2020-12-10
Score	4.33
Report id	836588
Category	Nutritional supplement
Quality	Substandard
Source	Manufacturer
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: The Food and Drug Administration is advising consumers not to purchase or use Bigger Longer More Time More Sperms (sic), a product promoted for sexual enhancement. This product was identified during an examination of imported goods.

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 50: Places for report 836588

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Americas	United States	United States	39.76	-98.5

Notes: [...] FDA laboratory analysis confirmed that Bigger Longer More Time More Sperms (sic) contains sildenafil, the active ingredient in Viagra, an FDA-approved prescription drug for erectile dysfunction. FDA's approval of Viagra is restricted to use under the supervision of a licensed health care professional. This undeclared ingredient may interact with nitrates found in some prescription drugs, such as nitroglycerin, and may lower blood pressure to dangerous levels. People with diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or heart disease often take nitrates. [...]

28 FDA warns vs fake drugs

Publication date	2020-11-07
Create date	2020-11-09
Score	3.82
Report id	796355
Category	Other, Anti-inflammatory medicine, Antipyretic, Antitussive
Quality	Falsified
Source	Unknown
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: FDA warns vs fake drugs INQUIRER.net

Click here to see the [Original Article](#)

Table 51: Places for report 796355

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
South-Eastern Asia	Philippines	Manila	14.6042	120.9822

Table 52: Drugs for report 796355

Medicine Name	Medicine Class	Action	ATC Code
mefenamic acid	Fenamates	antiinflammatory and antirheumatic products, non-steroids	M01AG01
loperamide	Antipropulsives	antipropulsives	A07DA03
carbocisteine	Mucolytics	expectorants, excl. combinations with cough suppressants	R05CB03

Table 53: Other Stories

ID	Title	Link
806000	The Philippines : Health Agency warns public against rise in fake over-the-counter medicines - 2020-11-16	Link
835982	FDA warns vs fake drugs	Link

Table 53: Other Stories(continued)

ID	Title	Link
811482	FDA warns against purchase, use of counterfeit medicines - UNTV News	Link

Notes: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) warned the public against the proliferation of fake over-the-counter medicines that it said could cause adverse health effects if ingested.

In an advisory, FDA director general Eric Domingo said the public should only buy medicines from licensed establishments, especially after they have verified that four popular drug brands had been counterfeited. These drugs are Ponstan (mefenamic acid, 500 mg tablet), Diatabs (loperamide, 2 mg capsule), Solmux (carbocisteine, 500 mg capsule) and Neozep Forte (phenylephrine HCl/chlorphenamine maleate/paracetamol, 2 mg/10 mg/500 mg tablet).

The lot numbers of the counterfeit drugs are: 429-30228A (with expiry date of September 2024) for Ponstan; U018407 for Diatabs; U089493 for Solmux; and U261217 for Neozep Forte. [...]

29 GPs sent 'used' gloves in 'significant' PPE hygiene blunder

Publication date	2020-11-24
Create date	2020-11-25
Score	3.55
Report id	816932
Category	Medical devices for disease prevention
Quality	Falsified
Source	Manufacturer
Curation	Manually curated
Incident or General	Incident

Snippet: GPs sent 'used' gloves in 'significant' PPE hygiene blunder Pulse

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Table 54: Places for report 816932

Region Name	Country	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Europe	United Kingdom	South West	50.81119	-3.63343

Table 55: Other Stories

ID	Title	Link
816950	GPs sent 'used' gloves in 'significant' PPE hygiene blunder	Link
817221	GPs 'sent clearly used' gloves from a Malaysian manufacturer	Link

Notes: Exclusive GPs in the South West of England have been told to 'immediately' stop using a batch of PPE that has been distributed locally, after finding that a number of protective gloves were 'clearly used' upon delivery.

In an email to GP practices sent earlier today, NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire CCG said they should stop using a brand of gloves delivered by its Medequip team.

The CCG had said that the problem affected Sanique medium and large gloves from Malaysia-based manufacturer Brightway Holdings – however, the company strenuously denies this. [...] The email said: 'We have become aware today of a significant hygiene and infection issue with this brand of gloves delivered via our Medequip team since 12 November. It would appear that a number of unopened boxes are filled with gloves that have clearly been used. [...]GP practices

have faced a number of issues with substandard PPE during the coronavirus pandemic.

Pulse previously reported that practices across the country had been supplied with expired face masks that had concealed 'best before' stickers.

And in June, the Government issued an alert telling GPs to throw away batches of out-of-date face masks distributed to practices after finding they posed a 'risk to staff'.

Meanwhile, in August, GPs were told to 'immediately' stop using certain non-sterile PPE gowns supplied by the Government after some batches did 'not meet minimum standards for fluid resistance'.

And earlier this month, GP practices in Scotland were sent 'official' PPE aprons made from 'repurposed bin bags'.