

Tip Line

What is the Gray Market?

Fake Pharmacies

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[ABC World News -- March 22, 2012](#)



[March 21, 2012 -- Lawmakers: Fake Pharmacies Price Gouging on Drugs](#)

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) -- Members of Congress investigating shortages of crucial drugs are targeting nearly two dozen fake pharmacies allegedly set up solely to buy and resell the drugs at huge markups.

Two senators and one U.S. representative on Wednesday sent letters to three individuals believed to have obtained licenses to operate both a pharmacy and a prescription drug wholesale business in a "shell game" - to make money by taking advantage of the drug shortage crisis that's disrupting hospital and other patient care. The letters request detailed information by April 11 about the businesses and their purchases and resale of cancer and other lifesaving drugs.

The letters were sent by Rep. Elijah Cummings, the ranking Democrat on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, along with Sen. John D. Rockefeller, chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and Sen. Tom Harkin, chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.



Story On "Gray Market" ~~October 17, 2011~~ **October 17, 2011**



Story On "Gray Market" ~~October 13, 2011~~ **October 13, 2011**



November 3 -- Congressman demands info from 'gray' drug marketer

A Maryland congressman for a second time is demanding a drug wholesaler answer questions about its handling of one of many lifesaving hospital drugs whose shortages have been disrupting patient care and leading to deaths.

Rep. Elijah Cummings, the ranking Democrat on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, has been probing alleged price-gouging by secondary suppliers accused of offering scarce drugs at huge markups.

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October 5, 2011 -- Congressman Investigates Sellers On Drug Shortages

A Congressman investigating worsening shortages of hospital drugs is demanding that secondary drug distributors reveal where they're getting scarce, life-saving medicines — and explain the huge markups they charge hospitals.

Letters from a House committee cite an Associated Press report that the shortages are responsible for at least 15 patient deaths and that secondary distributors are selling drugs for chemotherapy, anesthesia and infections for hugely inflated prices, in some cases 20 to 40 times the normal price.

Rep. Elijah E. Cummings, the ranking Democrat on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, has given five distributors — companies hospitals say have been offering them hard-to-find drugs at dramatic markups — two weeks to answer his questions.

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