



## Position Statement: Patient Safety & Supply Chain Security

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Boehringer Ingelheim is highly committed to delivering safe and efficacious medicines to our patients. We are dedicated to ensuring:

- Patient safety and end-to-end supply chain security
- Current industry standards for product verification measures based on mass serialization and tamper-resistant packaging
- Thorough and vigorous investigation of incidents that lead to violations of supply chain integrity and aggressive prosecution
- Close collaboration with police and government authorities to mitigate identified weaknesses

Boehringer Ingelheim supports legislative measures that increase sanctions for the distribution of these dangerous, and potentially fatal, counterfeit medicines. We also support provisions to enhance patient safety.

## Background:

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Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc., based in Ridgefield, CT, is the largest U.S. subsidiary of Boehringer Ingelheim Corporation. Boehringer Ingelheim is one of the world's top 20 pharmaceutical companies. Headquartered in Ingelheim, Germany, the company operates globally with approximately 50,000 employees. Since its founding in 1885, the company has remained family-owned and today creates value through innovation for three business areas including human pharmaceuticals, animal health and biopharmaceutical contract manufacturing. Boehringer Ingelheim is committed to improving lives and providing valuable services and support to patients and their families.

Boehringer Ingelheim is highly committed to delivering safe and efficacious medicines to our patients. Increasingly, medication is a target of counterfeiting, adulteration and theft. Counterfeit medicines are a worldwide problem that poses serious health risks for unwitting patients that unknowingly buy them. The World Customs Organization states that counterfeit medicines comprise a \$200 billion illegal black market.

A recent study by the Pharmaceutical Security Institute found that prevalence of counterfeit medications increased 10 times over the last decade. Counterfeit medicines in developing countries account for between 15-30% of their medicine supply. The problem is also growing in the United States, particularly in Latino communities located near the US-Mexico border, where counterfeit medicines are increasingly being smuggled across the border.



Exacerbating this trend is the manufacturing and smuggling of counterfeit pain medicines laced with fentanyl, further escalating the opioid epidemic in the United States. Boehringer Ingelheim is committed to ensuring patient safety and supply chain security for all our patients, particularly those living in Latino communities hardest hit by this epidemic.

### **Health Risks from Counterfeit Medicines**

Counterfeit medicines pose many dangerous risks because they may:

- contain a different quantity of the original active ingredient, making them super or sub-therapeutic
- contain totally different active ingredients
- contain toxic ingredients
- bear forged and inaccurate manufacturer's data on the packaging or have been repackaged
- have not been transported and stored properly

## **Patient Impact:**

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Boehringer Ingelheim is concerned with the risks posed to patients from counterfeit medicines. We are committed to providing safe medicines to our patients and ensuring a strong U.S. supply chain. We also will enhance patient safety through legislation and collaboration with government agencies.