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Governor

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FIVE MIAMI PHARMACIES ORDERED TO STOP OPERATING
- Two year multi-agency investigation identifies pill mill scam -

TALLAHASSEE – The Florida Department of Health (DOH) today suspended five pharmacy permits, immediately ordering the pharmacies and the entire staff to cease operations, based on investigative findings in partnership with the United States Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) that the pharmacy owner and its pharmacists dispensed controlled substances, other than in the course of the professional practice of pharmacy.

“Florida’s law enforcement and public health leaders remain committed to our ongoing effort to end the criminal distribution of prescription drugs, and I thank them for their great work,” said Governor Rick Scott. “Removing the sources of these drugs is essential to saving lives and stopping this scourge on our communities.”

Four of the five Miami pharmacies are owned by Aiman Aryan, a licensed pharmacist. The pharmacies operate under the business name of Robert’s Drug Store and are responsible for purchasing more than 1.6 million pills of oxycodone-based medications starting January 1 through June 30, 2011.

“The severity of this epidemic cannot be overstated,” said Dr. Farmer. “DOH is committed to suspending and revoking the licenses of unscrupulous practitioners and pharmacies who inappropriately prescribe highly addictive controlled substances to patients, with the hopes of stopping countless senseless deaths in our state.”

Further investigative efforts revealed that the pharmacies had “recruiters” who would pick up Medicare “patients” and drive them various doctor’s offices who would write a prescription to the patient for a controlled substance without a legitimate medical purpose and without performing a physical examination of the patient. After obtaining the prescription, the patient was transported to one of the four Robert’s Drug Stores to have the prescription filled. The recruiters paid the patients \$600 for their medications that usually consisted of 720 pills per patient. When the prescription was brought to one of the Robert’s Drug Stores, Mr. Aryan would pay the recruiters in cash for bringing patients to his pharmacies to have prescriptions filled.

The four pharmacies owned by Aryan also worked under the business names of Pharmacy One Inc. and Izz & Sons, Inc.

At the same time today, Pharmalife Consultant Inc., was also issued an emergency suspension order mandating the pharmacy permit be suspending after an investigation revealed that the pharmacy filled over 150 fraudulent prescriptions accounting for 23,500 oxycodone pills.

The ESOs were issued as a result of investigative assistance provided by the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), United States Attorney's Office, Miami-Dade Police Department and the Broward County Sheriff's Office.

View the complete Order listed above on DOH's Online Newsroom at <http://newsroom.doh.state.fl.us/category/healthcare-licensing/>.

Emergency suspension or restriction orders are not considered final agency action but are imposed as specified by section 456.074, Florida Statutes, for serious violations relating to the commission of crimes, standard of care, drug use, or for student loan defaults. The subject is entitled to a hearing before final action is taken by a regulatory board or by DOH.

To learn more about the Florida Department of Health visit www.doh.state.fl.us.

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The mission of the Florida Department of Health and Medical Quality Assurance (MQA) is to protect and promote the health of all residents and visitors in the state through organized state and community efforts, including cooperative agreements with counties. Working in conjunction with 22 boards and six councils, MQA regulates six types of facilities and more than 40 healthcare professions. MQA evaluates the credentials of all applicants for licensure, issues licenses, analyzes and investigates complaints, inspects facilities, assists in prosecuting practice act violations, combats unlicensed activity and provides credential and discipline history about licensees to the public.