

these two pharmacy chains. In my opinion, the FDA and the DEA should focus on the policies and procedures to inhibit the 1%, as the state of Florida did with its Pill Mill Bill. These efforts with CVS and Walgreens have had reverberation through other pharmacy chains, as my pharmacy manager source can attest!

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## SUMMARY

Title II: Supply Chain Security Act of the Drug Quality and Security Act will help improve the security of the pharmacy prescription order-fill process. With the explosion of the use of the Internet for shopping, it is understandable that computer-literate people will turn to online or Internet pharmacies for their pharmaceutical drugs. However, only 3% of the online or Internet pharmacies are legitimate!

The risks associated with illegal online Internet pharmacies include buying fake pharmaceutical drugs that are ineffective or dangerous. The lure of cheaper drugs from an illegal Internet pharmacy is great, as we pointed out in our hydrocodone and Viagra examples. However, the downside risks are significant, especially with pain pills and high-impact pharmaceutical drugs such as oncology drugs. In addition, identity theft is a high possibility with these foreign-based illegal Internet pharmacies. Providing any payment information to them may expose an unsuspecting consumer to financial loss.

As for the pill mills, wholesale distributors and pharmacies are now required to produce transaction information, the transaction history, and a transaction statement when ownership of pharmaceutical drugs changes hands. A spike in the ordering volume of controlled substances by any supply chain entity or consumer (individual, medical facility, clinic, doctor, etc.) dictates the need for both wholesale distributors and pharmacists to report the information to the FDA and the appropriate law enforcement agencies.

WebMD and the FDA have wonderful websites that identify the answers to frequently asked questions regarding Internet pharmacies. My recommendation regarding ordering pharmaceutical drugs over the Internet is “buyer beware,” and you should refer to these websites when you may be inclined to use them. If you are an employee with a wholesale distributor