

Jonathan Rosenfeld's Nursing Homes Abuse Blog

Pharmacist Sentenced To Home Confinement After Re-Packaging Drugs For Nursing Home Patients

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Pharmacists play an essential role in the well being of nursing home patients by filling physicians prescriptions and in many cases keeping track of all the medications each patient takes to assure there are no contraindications in mixing different drugs.



Obviously, keeping track of medications is an difficult but important job. Perhaps the first step towards assuring the safety of nursing home patients who are reliant on prescription drugs is for a pharmacist to assure that the drug contained within a package really is what it should be.

An Illinois pharmacist who repackaged drugs bound for nursing home patients will be spending time on 'home confinement'. Pharmacist, Ted Thalmann of the The Medicine Shoppe in Edwardsville, IL pleaded guilty earlier this year to a charge of misbranding a drug.

Jonathan Rosenfeld represents victims of nursing home abuse and neglect throughout the country. For more information please visit Nursing Homes Abuse Blog (www.nursinghomesabuseblog.com), Bed Sore FAQ (www.bedsorefaq.com) or call Jonathan directly at (888) 424-5757.

Thalmann admitted to repackaging bulk prescription drugs packed by a manufacturer into smaller blister packs that were labeled with the wrong expiration date.

In addition to six months of home confinement, Mr. Thalmann was also sentenced to perform 250 hours of community service in pharmacy field and ordered to pay a \$2,000 fine.

Read more about this case of intentional deceit by a pharmacist [here](#).

Pharmacist Malpractice?

In the above situation, no patients were injured as a result of Mr. Thalmann's greed-- and that really is what it boils down to. I'm sure that the individual packaging commanded a premium over the bulk medication.

Greed issues aside however, pharmacist role in dispensing medication is frequently an under-appreciated, yet crucial job. Too often, even seemingly small and unintentional errors result in patient injury or death due to pharmacy errors such as:

- Failure to advise or warn or potentially dangerous drug side-effects
- Improperly filled prescriptions
- Incorrect labeling of medication
- Incorrect medication dosage
- Filling multiple medications with known adverse reactions
- Failing to provide adequate instructions regarding use of a drug

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Strellis & Field, Chartered

Chicago Office

444 N. Wells St., Ste 202
Chicago, IL 60610
Tel: 312.201.0000

Belleville Office

216 W. Washington Street
Belleville, IL 62226
Tel: 618.235.8701

Waterloo Office

115 East Mill Street
Waterloo, IL 62298
Tel: 618.939.3402

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