

Alert: Drug Wholesalers are attempting to buy drugs for emergency medical reasons

Please be aware that there are drug wholesalers contacting Georgia pharmacies asking that a pharmacy sell their 'excess' or 'extra' brand name drugs in short supply for 'emergency medical reasons' to the wholesaler, which in turn is purportedly for resale to pharmacies in need of the drugs that are in short supply.

These wholesalers may or may not be licensed by the Georgia State Board of Pharmacy as drug wholesalers. Their primary sales pitch is to call and convince a pharmacy that it is perfectly legal to sell extra drugs for emergency medical reasons to a drug wholesaler.

They are adamant in their stance that it is legal for a pharmacy to sell drugs under these circumstances. It is not legal - it is illegal.

These wholesalers are using this good will reasoning to obtain drugs in short supply, which they will resell on the secondary and black market to other wholesalers for large profits. Such activity is a violation of the Prescription Drug Marketing Act (PDMA) and well as against Georgia laws and rules.

These types of sales do not include pharmacies occasionally selling small amounts of drugs to another pharmacy or health care practitioner (that is not a drug wholesaler) for emergency medical reasons. This kind of distribution is allowed under the Board wholesale rules and the PDMA.

If any wholesaler contacts you, I would respectfully request that you contact me or one of the GDNA agents with the name of the wholesaler. We have been speaking with these people and have been telling them that Georgia pharmacies cannot sell drugs to them, but we don't believe they have listened to us and have continued to contact pharmacies around the state.

Thank you

C. Richard 'Rick' Allen, R.Ph.

Director

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For your information: The Board of Pharmacy's drug wholesale rule is written to allow pharmacies to sell a drug only for emergency medical reasons. This type of distribution is permitted and defined as: *"emergency medical reasons" which includes transfers of prescription drugs by a retail pharmacy to another retail pharmacy or other practitioner of the healing arts.*

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