

Scam Calls Targeting Pharmacists

The NMBOP has received reports from pharmacists of calls from someone who claimed to be an undercover agent with the NMBOP.

The caller provided a fake badge number, and told the pharmacist that he/she was under investigation by the Board, the DEA and the FBI for illegal drug trafficking. The caller quoted “1985 Drug Trafficking Law” and the “Privacy Act” and made threats of license suspension and a sheriff going to his/her house if he/she did not answer his questions.

Calls may be routed to appear on caller ID to be from the NMBOP office (505-841-9102, 505-222-9830).

The NMBOP does not make calls such as that described above.

The BOP and DEA received other reports of scam calls in 2019 -

DEA Warns of Scam Calls Targeting Pharmacists and Other DEA-Registered Providers

Health care providers and other members of the public have reported receiving phone calls from people claiming to represent Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and threatening legal action against them if a large fine is not paid immediately over the phone. According to a [DEA press release](#), this scam used fake names and badge numbers, or the names of well-known senior officials with DEA, and threatened victims with arrest, prosecution, imprisonment, and revocation of their DEA numbers. The agency emphasizes that DEA will never contact practitioners by phone to demand money or any form of payment. DEA will not request any personal or sensitive information by phone, and notification of legitimate investigation or legal action is made via official letter or in person.

DEA asks anyone who receives a call from a person purporting to be a DEA special agent or other law enforcement official asking for money to refuse the demand and report the threat using the [online form](#) or by calling **877/792-2873**. **Reporting these calls will assist DEA in investigating and stopping this activity.**

August 14, 2019:

Recently, the Albuquerque DEA Office has been receiving inquiries from DEA Registrants asking about the validity of telephone calls they are receiving from what looks like the main DEA Registration Support number in Washington, DC (1-800-882-9539), or the local Albuquerque DEA Office (505-452-4500). These callers are threatening Registrants by telling them that they are currently under investigation in an attempt to extort the provider.

DEA will never contact Registrants, or members of the public, by telephone to demand money or any other form of payment.

Registrants who have received these types calls can report an extortion scam online at: www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/pubs/pressreleases/extortion_scam.htm.

ALERT - Extortion Scam

DEA Warns Public of Extortion Scam by DEA Special Agent Impersonators

The Drug Enforcement Administration is warning the public including the DEA registrant community to include practitioners and pharmacies about criminals posing as DEA Special Agents, DEA Investigators or other law enforcement personnel as part of an international extortion scheme.



The criminals call the victims (who in most cases previously purchased drugs over the internet or by telephone) and identify themselves as DEA agents or law enforcement officials from other agencies. The impersonators inform their victims that purchasing drugs over the internet or by telephone is illegal, and that enforcement action will be taken against them unless they pay a fine. In most cases, the impersonators instruct their victims to pay the "fine" via wire transfer to a designated location, usually overseas. If victims refuse to send money, the impersonators often threaten to arrest them or search their property. Some victims who purchased their drugs using a credit card also reported fraudulent use of their credit cards. Another scheme involves criminals contacting doctors and pharmacists and stating that they are the subject of an investigation and demanding money to clear up the matter.

Impersonating a federal agent is a violation of federal law. The public should be aware that no DEA agent will ever contact members of the public by telephone to demand money or any other form of payment.

The DEA reminds the public to use caution when purchasing controlled substance pharmaceuticals by telephone or through the Internet. It is illegal to purchase controlled substance pharmaceuticals online or by telephone unless very stringent requirements are met. And, all pharmacies that dispense controlled substance pharmaceuticals by means of the internet must be registered with DEA. By ordering any pharmaceutical medications online or by telephone from unknown entities, members of the public risk receiving unsafe, counterfeit, and/or ineffective drugs from criminals who operate outside the law. In addition, personal and financial information could be compromised.

Anyone receiving a telephone call from a person purporting to be a DEA special agent, DEA Investigator, or other law enforcement official seeking money should refuse the demand and report the threat using the online form below. Please include all fields, including, most importantly, a call back number so that a DEA investigator can contact you for additional information. Online reporting will greatly assist DEA in investigating and stopping this criminal activity.

[▶ Extortion Scam Online Reporting](#)