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ADAP Advocacy Warns Fraudsters are Using Grindr to Buy HIV Meds

Gay dating App users are unknowingly jeopardizing patient safety by selling their prescription medications to fraudulent counterfeit drug rings

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Media Contact:
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WASHINGTON, D.C. – ADAP Advocacy, in collaboration with the Partnership for Safe Medicines (PSM), today issued a [safety alert](#) warning Grindr's users to stop selling their HIV and other medications on the popular gay dating App. Grindr, as well as potentially other dating Apps, are being used as a platform for fake user profiles operating under counterfeit drug rings to buy prescription medications. This seemingly innocent practice is not only illegal, but it is [jeopardizing the drug supply chain](#) and putting the health of patients at risk for health complications, severe illness, and even death.

“Illegally bought, repackaged medicine has resulted in patients receiving harmful counterfeit product,” said **ADAP Advocacy Board Member and Partnership for Safe Medicines Executive Director Shabbir Imber Safdar**. “These illegal buyers are not running charity projects, but complex criminal schemes that take advantage of patients twice: once in depriving them of much-needed medicine, and a second time in causing them to receive unsafe versions of the medicine they deserve.”

ADAP Advocacy and PSM potentially uncovered one such counterfeit drug ring in New Orleans Parish earlier this year and immediately alerted both the U.S. Food & Drug Administration, as well as Gilead Sciences. Earlier this year, Gilead Sciences uncovered a criminal enterprise distributing over \$230 million of counterfeit drugs, some of which were their HIV antiretroviral medications.

Summarized **Brandon M. Macsata, ADAP Advocacy's CEO**: “Our new safety alert calls on anyone who comes across what they suspect to be a profile offering to buy HIV medications, or any prescription medications for that matter, on Grindr to do the right thing and immediately report it. Making a few bucks isn't worth it because selling prescriptions could be putting the health of other people in *serious* danger.”

To view the safety alert, go to <https://adapadvocacy.org/publications.html#i>.

To learn more about ADAP Advocacy, AIDS Drug Assistance Programs, or the dangers of counterfeit drug rings, please email info@adapadvocacy.org.

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About ADAP Advocacy: ADAP Advocacy's mission is to promote and enhance the AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAPs) and improves access to care for persons living with HIV/AIDS. ADAP Advocacy works with advocates, community, health care, government, patients, pharmaceutical companies, and other stakeholders to raise awareness, offer patient educational programs, and foster greater community collaboration.