



Kentucky Hospital Research & Education Foundation Emergency Preparedness Update - 1 for April 17, 2019

Dozens charged in major opioid takedown across 11 states

(CBS) Dozens of people, including 53 medical professionals, have been charged for their alleged participation in the illegal prescription and distribution of opioids and other narcotics, Justice Department and Department of Health and Human Services officials said Wednesday. Federal law enforcement and health officials held a press conference in Cincinnati where they announced charges resulting from the Appalachian Regional Prescription Opioid Strike Force takedown operation that began only four months ago.

The charges leveled by the ARPO Strike Force involve over 350,000 prescriptions and over 32 million pills distributed out by health care officials across 11 states including Ohio, Tennessee, Alabama, West Virginia, Kentucky, Pennsylvania and Florida. Thirty-one doctors, seven pharmacists and eight nurse practitioners were charged on Wednesday. Some of the examples of medical malfeasance found in the indictment are striking in their scope.

Full story: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/justice-department-announces-major-opioid-drug-takedown/>

Related stories:

Ohio, Kentucky doctors among 60 charged in pain pill bust 'acted like drug dealers'

(Cincinnati Enquirer) 11 AM April 17 - Federal prosecutors charged 60 physicians and pharmacists Wednesday with illegally handing out opioid prescriptions in what they say is the biggest crackdown of its kind in U.S. history.

A special strike force from the U.S. Department of Justice, which led the investigation, began making arrests in five states early Wednesday. One of the doctors who was charged is Dr. Raymond Noschang, an internal medicine specialist with an office in Blue Ash.

Most of the defendants face charges of unlawful distribution of controlled substances involving prescription opioids. Authorities say they gave out about 350,000 prescriptions, totaling more than 32 million pills, in Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia and Alabama.

Prosecutors said more than 28,000 patients were affected by the arrests and described the doctors involved as drug dealers, rather than medical professionals.

The Appalachian Regional Prescription Strike Force included more than 300 investigators from jurisdictions in all five states.

Full story & video: <https://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/2019/04/17/opioid-pain-pill-federal-prescription-bust/3482202002/>

Doctors in five states charged with prescribing opioids for cash, sex

The 60 people indicted include 31 doctors, seven pharmacists, eight nurse practitioners and seven other licensed medical professionals.

The charges involve more than 350,000 illegal prescriptions written in Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee, Alabama and West Virginia, according to indictments unsealed in federal court in Cincinnati.

Read more » https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/doctors-in-five-states-charged-with-prescribing-pain-killers-for-cash-sex/2019/04/17/7670d20e-607e-11e9-9ff2-abc984dc9eec_story.html

The KHEREF Emergency Preparedness Update is assembled several times a week. When events make it necessary, the Update may be sent out several times a day to keep our hospital and the healthcare community advised on preparedness news and information. Most of this information is compiled from open sources, and where possible reference links will be provided. There is an archive of [Emergency Preparedness Updates available here](#). If you would like to add or delete, or have something you would like to contribute to a future edition of the Emergency Preparedness Update, please contact rbartlett@kyha.com (include your current email address). The preparedness program for the Kentucky Hospital Association (KHA) and KHEREF are supported by US DHHS ASPR HPP funds through a contract with Kentucky Public Health.