



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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*Eastern District of Pennsylvania*

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**September 19, 2007**

**For Immediate Release**

**PHILADELPHIA DOCTOR INDICTED FOR PEDDLING  
PRESCRIPTION DRUGS**

PHILADELPHIA - United States Attorney Pat Meehan today announced the filing of a five count Indictment<sup>1</sup> against Joseph Borkson, M.D., of Philadelphia, charging him with conspiracy to distribute controlled substances and distribution of controlled substances, arising from his having issued fraudulent prescriptions for thousands of dosage units of the frequently-abused tablets Percocet, Endocet, Roxicet, OxyContin, Lorcet, and Xanax, the frequently-abused syrups Tussionex and Phenergan, and frequently-abused Duragesic narcotic skin patches, from 2001 through March, 2007. The indictment alleges that Borkson issued the prescriptions to drug dealers and to drug abusers in exchange for cash or sexual favors, in both their own names and in the names of others and in fictitious names, often several prescriptions at a time.

"The abuse of prescription drugs is a major problem in our region and throughout the country," said Meehan. "Doctors take an oath to aid and heal the sick. As the indictment alleges, in this case you had a licensed physician who chose not only to violate that oath and the trust placed in him but to contribute to the problem."

Dr. Borkson is charged with four counts of distribution of controlled substances and one count of conspiracy to distribute controlled substances.

**INFORMATION ABOUT THE DEFENDANT(S)**

NAME	PLACE OF RESIDENCE	AGE
Dr. Joseph Borkson	Philadelphia	64

If convicted, the defendant faces a maximum possible sentence of 100 years in prison,

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<sup>1</sup>An Indictment or Information is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

a \$5,000,000 fine, a minimum of three years supervised release, a \$200 special assessment, and at least \$600,000 in forfeiture.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Postal Inspection Service, and has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Joan L. Markman.

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