



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Pennsylvania

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June 21, 2010

**PHARMACY OWNER CHARGED WITH MISBRANDING**

An information<sup>1</sup> was filed today charging Charlotte Lopacki with the introduction of misbranded drugs into interstate commerce, announced United States Attorney Zane David Memeger. The information alleges that from at least July 2004, through September 12, 2005, the defendant introduced into interstate commerce controlled prescription drugs, which were misbranded because they were dispensed without valid prescriptions.

As set forth in the information, the defendant was licensed to practice as a pharmacist in Pennsylvania and was the owner and operator of a walk-in pharmacy known as Budget Drug and Wellness Center, located at 1137 Bustleton Pike, Feasterville, Pennsylvania, and an Internet pharmacy known as Budget Drug Rx. Budget Drug Rx filled and shipped orders for controlled prescription drugs, primarily weight-loss drugs such as phendimetrazine and phentermine, placed by customers of Internet websites that allowed customers to select the type, quantity and strength of the drugs and required them only to complete online questionnaires. The website operators hired doctors to review the questionnaires and issue prescriptions, and pharmacies, including Budget Drug Rx, to fill the prescriptions and ship them to the customers, who were located throughout the United States. The doctors never examined or met any of the Internet customers before issuing the prescriptions.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANT

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE OR YEAR OF BIRTH
Charlotte Lopacki	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	1964

If convicted, Lopacki faces a possible maximum statutory sentence of 3 years imprisonment, 1 year of supervised release, a \$300,000 fine, and a \$75 special assessment.

The case was investigated by the Diversion and Enforcement division of the Drug Enforcement Administration. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Frank R. Costello, Jr. and Kevin R. Brenner.

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

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