

Mississippi, Alabama Hospitals Sue Opioid Manufacturers

Hospitals in Mississippi and Alabama are suing more than a dozen pharmaceutical companies, claiming the companies deceptively marked and sold opioids.

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AP

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Hospitals in [Mississippi](/news/best-states/mississippi) and [Alabama](/news/best-states/alabama) are suing more than a dozen pharmaceutical companies, claiming the companies deceptively marked and sold opioids.

The Clarion Ledger reports the class-action federal lawsuit was filed Thursday in Mississippi by Southwest Mississippi Regional Medical Center in McComb, Mississippi; Infirmiry Health Hospitals, Inc., based in Mobile, Alabama; and Monroe County Healthcare Authority, based in Monroeville, Alabama.

The lawsuit says hospitals have faced expenses for treating opioid addicts because companies "pushed highly addictive, dangerous opioids, falsely representing to doctors that patients would only rarely succumb to drug addiction."

The hospitals claim monetary losses as damages, saying they never would have had contact with these patients, and the patients would not have opioid conditions, "but for the opioid epidemic created and engineered by Defendants."

Purdue Pharma makes OxyContin, the pill receiving the most claims of deceptive marketing. Purdue said in a statement that it denies the lawsuit's allegations and the company is working to solve the opioid public health crisis.



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Another defendant, Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., said in a statement it provides resources to doctors, pharmacists and patients about responsible pain management and is working to develop non-opioid chronic pain treatment.

A representative from another defendant, Ortho-McNeil-Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a Johnson & Johnson company, said the lawsuits are "legally and factually unfounded" and that the company has acted in the best interest of patients, including warning labels on each product.

Another defendant — Endo Health Solutions Inc. and Endo Pharmaceuticals Inc. — also denied the allegations and said it has ceased opioid promotion.

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"Hospitals are the front-line troops in the opioid battle," Barrett told the newspaper. "Hospitals have lost billions treating opioid-related medical problems. Yet they have been thus far ignored. America's hospitals will be ignored no longer."

Barrett said the class-action lawsuit represents all U.S. hospitals that have treated patients with health issues related to the use of opioids.

Information from: The Clarion-Ledger, <http://www.clarionledger.com>

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Dec. 8, 2017

A state audit of a south-central Iowa animal shelter has identified more than \$13,000 in improper spending.

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A northwest Indiana man has pleaded guilty in a police pursuit that ended with a collision that killed a 13-year-old girl.

[Witness: Make Ex-Wife's Death 'Look Like a Robbery' \(https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/new-hampshire/articles/2017-12-08/witness-make-ex-wifes-death-look-like-a-robbery?int=news-rec\)](https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/new-hampshire/articles/2017-12-08/witness-make-ex-wifes-death-look-like-a-robbery?int=news-rec)

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A prosecution witness who secretly recorded conversations of a man accused of participating in a failed murder-for-hire plot involving his ex-wife says he was told to "make it look like a robbery."

[Former Sen. Brian Joyce Arrested After Federal Indictment \(https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/massachusetts/articles/2017-12-08/former-sen-brian-joyce-arrested-after-federal-indictment?int=news-rec\)](https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/massachusetts/articles/2017-12-08/former-sen-brian-joyce-arrested-after-federal-indictment?int=news-rec)

Dec. 8, 2017

Federal prosecutors say former state Sen. Brian Joyce has been arrested.

[Ex-Priest Could Face Life in Prison for Killing Parishioner \(https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/texas/articles/2017-12-08/punishment-testimony-begins-in-ex-priests-murder-trail?int=news-rec\)](https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/texas/articles/2017-12-08/punishment-testimony-begins-in-ex-priests-murder-trail?int=news-rec)

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A former priest has been convicted of murdering a female parishioner nearly 60 years ago.

[Texas Pilot Guilty in Gulf of Mexico Crash Insurance Fraud \(https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/texas/articles/2017-12-08/texas-pilot-guilty-in-gulf-of-mexico-crash-insurance-fraud?int=news-rec\)](https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/texas/articles/2017-12-08/texas-pilot-guilty-in-gulf-of-mexico-crash-insurance-fraud?int=news-rec)

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A Texas pilot who survived a 2012 Gulf of Mexico crash and used an iPad to record his time in the water acknowledges it was insurance-related fraud.



Bayonne Bridge Project Praised, but \$350 Million Over Budget
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A massive project to raise the Bayonne Bridge to allow larger cargo ships access to the ports of New York and New Jersey has already begun to pay dividends, but at a hefty price.

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Dec. 8, 2017

Winds driving an uncontained wildfire in northern San Diego County subsided substantially overnight but forecasters say they will return after sunrise Friday.

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The data was provided by McKinsey & Company's Leading States Index.

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