

Justice Department Announces
Nationwide Health Care Fraud Enforcement Action
Press Conference
Thursday, June 27, 2024
Principal Deputy Administrator George Papadopoulos

REMARKS AS DELIVERED

Thank you, Attorney General Garland. We appreciate the opportunity to be here.

Good afternoon, I'm George Papadopoulos, DEA's Principal Deputy Administrator.

Every day, the DEA works tirelessly across the country and around the world to save lives by protecting the public from dangerous and deadly drug threats.

Whether the threats are from the drug cartels flooding the United States with synthetic drugs, like fentanyl – the deadliest drug threat we've ever faced – or from telemedicine providers and practitioners who unnecessarily peddle addictive controlled substances for profit.

In March 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal government authorized the broader use of telemedicine services to allow patients access to needed health services and medications without requiring an in-person visit.

While this ease of access to healthcare services expanded availability and convenience individuals like Ruthia He, the founder and CEO of Done Global and David Brody, the clinical president of Done Health, exploited the expansion for profit.

Telemedicine plays an important role by ensuring access and continuity of needed medical care to all Americans.

However, the cases we are discussing today are a clear example of what happens when individuals and corporations prioritize profits over patient care.

As alleged in the indictment, the defendants provided easy access to controlled substances, like Adderall and other highly addictive medications, through monthly subscriptions and in many cases for no legitimate medical purpose.

One practitioner alone prescribed 1.5 million pills of Adderall and other stimulants to patients across the country.

The defendants put profits over patients, made millions of dollars in the process, and likely exacerbated prescription stimulant shortages, like those identified by the FDA in 2022.

Our message is clear, the DEA, along with our law enforcement partners, will shut down pill mills whether they are in doctor's offices or in online telemedicine platforms.

We will continue to hold everyone accountable, including company executives, that use telemedicine platforms to put profits over patient safety. Because addictive medications require a legitimate prescription, not a monthly subscription.

I thank the men and women of the DEA who worked on these important cases, and our law enforcement partners and prosecutors for their assistance with our investigations.

I will now turn it over to FBI Executive Assistant Director Langan.