



National Association of Boards of Pharmacy

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nabp

TO: EXECUTIVE OFFICERS – STATE BOARDS OF PHARMACY

FROM: Carmen A. Catizone, Executive Director/Secretary

DATE: April 23, 2009

RE: Pharmaceutical Cargo Theft Intelligence - Copaxone

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Office of Criminal Investigations (OCI) notified us of a recent theft of the pharmaceutical Copaxone. Approximately 14 Pallets / 994 Cartons / 5,962 Packs of Copaxone (Glatiramer Acetate) 20 mg, a non-controlled substance with Batch/Lot #P53159 and an Expiration date of January 2011, were stolen at the end of last week. The tractor-trailer was recovered at a rest stop on the New Jersey Turnpike this past Monday. Unfortunately, its contents were emptied. Corporate Security from TEVA indicated that the remainder of the specific Batch/Lot #P53159 was recalled so that if that particular product with Batch/Lot #P53159 is being distributed, offered for sale, or dispensed, it would be the stolen product.

Copaxone is an extremely unique product and is used only to treat patients suffering from multiple sclerosis. If the product is not stored below 74 degrees and out of the sunlight, its effect is degenerated and the product may not be safe for use.

We are contacting you to request your assistance in providing this information to the pharmacists in your states and to ask them to immediately notify the FDA Office of Criminal Investigations if they are contacted by individuals offering to sell this product or if they have purchased this product or know of anyone that may be involved with this theft and the distribution of this product.

Any information should be provided to Special Agent Gregg Goneconto or Special Agent Nancy Kennedy at OCI Headquarters (800-551-3989), or you can also click on <http://www.fda.gov/oci/contact.html>.

Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions or I can assist you further with this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

cc: NABP Executive Committee