



HEALTH CARE ALLIANCE FOR PATIENT SAFETY

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Dangers of Counterfeit Contact Lenses is Topic of Briefing for U.S. Senate Policy Staff

Briefing, sponsored by the Health Care Alliance for Patient Safety, was held today in Washington, DC

(WASHINGTON) – The Healthcare Alliance for Patient Safety today held a briefing in Washington, DC, for U.S. Senate policy staff on the medical dangers and safety threats posed by counterfeit contact lenses, which can cause medical conditions that lead to blindness.

A [2017 study](#) conducted by the US Food and Drug Administration, which was published in *the Journal of Forensic Sciences*, found that 60 percent of counterfeit lenses tested came back positive for microbial contamination, which can cause medical ailments leading to vision loss.

Policy leaders also learned at the briefing that while a significant number of these dangerous, counterfeit contact lenses are sold online from suspect retailers or seized upon being imported, some make it into local novelty stores, as was [reported](#) by *Popular Science Magazine*.

The Health Care Alliance for Patient Safety has made it a priority to prevent the dangerous sale of counterfeit lenses, which can cause vision loss.

Dr. Mike Mayers, director of advocacy at Johnson & Johnson Vision, who sat on the panel to brief policy leaders, commented, *“In today’s global marketplace, we are likely to continue to see counterfeit contact lenses become prevalent and sophisticated. We must partner with others, including our government, as a greater force to deter the growing threat of counterfeit. Today’s briefing was a step forward in growing that partnership.”*

In addition to Mayers, the panel also included:

- Dr. Malvina Edyelman, Center for Device and Radiological Health, Food & Drug Administration
- Dr. Deanna Alexander, O.D., F.A.A.O., Chairwoman, Health Care Alliance for Patient Safety

- Dr. Chris Wroten, Optometrist, Bond Wroten Eye Clinic

“Counterfeit contact lenses, which can be marketed as a costume accessory or be packaged as a traditional medical device, put health and vision safety in significant danger,” said Dr. Alexander. “The Health Care Alliance for Patient Safety recognizes that the sale of counterfeit medical devices to trusting patients is dangerous, and our coalition is committed to seeking action from lawmakers and regulators to end this practice.”

More information on the Health Care Alliance for Patient Safety can be found at <https://www.patientsafetytoday.com>.