

Gilead Accuses Pharmacies Of Selling Counterfeit HIV Drugs

By **Elliot Weld**

Law360 (May 7, 2026, 3:17 PM EDT) -- Gilead Sciences has sued several New York City pharmacies claiming they sold counterfeit HIV medication bearing the Gilead brand.

In a suit filed April 14 and unsealed this week, Gilead sued Pain Relief Rx Inc., Linden Blvd. Rx. Inc., Lumix Pharmacy Inc., Galaxy Pharmacy Inc., ClearRx Pharmacy Inc., MDRx Pharmacy Inc., SkyRx Pharmacy Inc., Spectra Pharmacy Inc., Michael's Pharmacy and several proprietors of those establishments. All the pharmacies are based in various neighborhoods of the borough of Queens, according to the suit.

Gilead makes the HIV medication Biktarvy, a once-per-day pill that halts the disease's progression and prevents transmission, according to the suit.

According to Gilead, the pharmacies sold "diverted, misbranded, infringing and counterfeit Gilead-branded HIV medicines" on four online medication sites.

Gilead said in December 2025, a cooperating pharmacist within the Eastern District of New York searched for and located a listing for Biktarvy for \$1,999 through Pain Relief Rx, which Gilead said was a 53% discount of the wholesale acquisition price.

The cooperating pharmacist bought the unit and a search of that unit's serial number showed it was sold by a Gilead-authorized distributor to a pharmacy in Philadelphia. That pharmacy then confirmed it had dispensed that unit to a patient in October 2025 "and yet Pain Relief in Queens sold that same bottle online two months later," the suit said.

The Biktarvy bottle "had several indicia of having been previously dispensed to a patient," including missing its outsert and a label that "had dots of lifted ink and a torn corner consistent with the removal of a pharmacy-applied patient label," Gilead said.

A bottle of Descovy, another Gilead-made HIV medication, received from Pain Relief Rx, also was dirty and damaged and showed signs that a pharmacy-applied patient label had been removed, according to the suit.

Gilead said Pain Relief Rx and its owners are recidivist pharmaceutical fraudsters that were sued an "astonishing" 91 times from 2022 to 2025 by car insurance companies for allegedly submitting false



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claims in connection with auto accidents. Gilead claimed Pain Relief Rx is not an operating retail pharmacy and was closed during its claimed business hours with most of its windows covered. An investigator visited a neighboring business where an employee said the pharmacy had not been open for years, according to the suit.

Gilead made similar claims about Lumix, which Gilead said sold bottles of Biktarvy and Descovy that arrived with missing outserts and appeared dirty and damaged with evidence of removed labels. Lumix, according to the suit, is also not an operating retail pharmacy and an employee of a neighboring business said the business was a "scam." Lumix is the latest of many scam pharmacies run by the family of Ariel Levy, selling over \$26 million worth of counterfeit Gilead-brand medications from 2022 to 2024, the suit said.

According to the suit, none of the pharmacies operate brick-and-mortar stores, and those locations are merely fronts to sell counterfeit medication online.

The same day the suit was filed, Gilead requested a restraining order, asset freeze and expedited discovery order. U.S. District Judge Carol Bagley Amon granted those requests April 17. Gilead said it was making those requests for putting "an immediate stop" to a black market of potentially dangerous HIV medication.

A representative for Gilead did not immediately respond to requests for comment. An attorney for one of the proprietors of Pain Relief Rx and an attorney for one proprietor of Linden Pharmacy did not immediately respond to requests for comment. The remaining pharmacies and their proprietors could not immediately be reached for comment.

Gilead is represented by Geoffrey Potter, Timothy Waters, Anna Petrocelli, Isaac Weingram and Caroline Zielinski of Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP.

Pain Relief Rx supervisor Ella Mullokandova is represented by Steve Zissou of Steve Zissou & Associates.

Linden Pharmacy principal Jonathan Abramov is represented by Kenneth Murphy of Rivkin Radler LLP.

Counsel information for the remaining defendants was not immediately available.

The case is Gilead Sciences Inc. et al. v. Pain Relief Rx Inc. et al., case number 1:26-cv-02172, in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

--Editing by Alex Hubbard.