

Pharmacies Hit With Injunction In Gilead Counterfeit Drug Row

By Adam Lidgett

Law360 (May 27, 2026, 7:07 PM EDT) -- A New York federal judge has issued a preliminary injunction blocking a pair of Queens pharmacies from selling any human immunodeficiency virus medications that bear the Gilead name or the name of two of its products.

U.S. District Judge Carol Bagley Amon on Tuesday converted an earlier temporary restraining order against Pain Relief Rx Inc. and Linden Blvd. Rx. Inc. into a preliminary injunction, after they failed to respond to the earlier order from April.

Pain Relief and Linden were, therefore, barred from making counterfeit products with any marks for Gilead or its HIV medications Biktarvy and Descovy, according to Tuesday's preliminary injunction.

Additionally on Tuesday, the judge converted an earlier asset freeze order against Pain Relief Rx and Linden, as well as fellow defendant Michael's Pharmacy, into a preliminary injunction, also following the parties' failure to respond.

Biktarvy and Descovy are once-per-day pills that can halt HIV's progression and prevent transmission, according to a suit Gilead filed earlier this month. Gilead alleges the pharmacies sold "diverted, misbranded, infringing and counterfeit Gilead-branded HIV medicines" on 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, according to the suit.

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 states. It adds that 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."

A bottle of Descovy received from Pain Relief Rx also was dirty and damaged and showed signs that a



Geoffrey Potter



Timothy Waters

pharmacy-applied patient label had been removed, according to the suit.

Representatives for the parties either did not immediately respond to requests for comment from Law360 on Wednesday or could not be reached.

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.

Michael's Pharmacy principal Michael Kaldas and co-owner Selvia Girgis are represented by Wyatt M.M. Noble of Trenk Isabel Siddiqi & Shahdanian PC.

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.

--Additional reporting by Elliot Weld. Editing by Amy French.