

Vizient Statement Urging Washington to Stop Counterfeit Medical Supplies

November 1, 2021 - Vizient, Inc., the nation's leading health care performance improvement company, is committed to protecting front-line clinical workers and the health care supply chain from counterfeit medical supplies. As bad actors continue to exploit the ongoing public health emergency for their own financial gain, lawmakers can curb the flow of these potentially hazardous gray and black market products by enacting the Integrity, Notification, Fairness in Online Retail Marketplaces (INFORM) Consumers Act.

Since the start of the pandemic, Vizient has reviewed nearly 5,300 unique requests to confirm that products being offered to member hospitals were properly registered with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), or another appropriate governing entity. Of the requests reviewed, less than 25% were confirmed by Vizient as having appropriate agency registrations.

The sale of counterfeit medical supplies remains a serious concern with reputational, clinical, and financial implications on Vizient's diverse members including academic medical centers, pediatric facilities, community hospitals, integrated health delivery networks, and non-acute health care providers. Substandard and falsified medical products threaten the confidence placed in health care providers and health systems, contribute to antimicrobial resistance and drug-resistant infections, and impact patient safety.

Congress must address the challenges around securing and verifying essential health care products that are legitimate and effective. Passing the INFORM Consumers Act is a critical step to ensuring accountability and transparency to the sale of goods in these marketplaces.