

UK Opioid Drug Manufacturer Paid Record \$1.4 Billion to Stop Investigations and Obtain Immunity Deal

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Reckitt Benckiser (RB Group) agreed to pay \$1.4 billion to resolve US investigations over claims that its former pharmaceuticals business, Indivior carried out an illegal scheme to boost sales of an opioid addiction treatment. Indivior was accused of deceiving doctors into believing its product, Suboxone Film, itself a form of opioid, was safer and less susceptible to abuse than similar opioid drugs, and the company allegedly directed opioid-addicted patients to doctors who prescribed Suboxone at high rates. Indivior has pleaded not guilty to conspiracy and fraud charges and will face trial in federal court.

Reckitt Benckiser has agreed to pay up to \$1.4 billion to resolve U.S. claims that its former pharmaceuticals business Indivior before it was spun out of the company carried out an illegal scheme to boost sales of an opioid addiction treatment.

The settlement, the largest by any company related to the U.S. opioid epidemic, resolved long-running probes by the U.S. Justice Department and the Federal Trade Commission into the companies' marketing and sales

of Suboxone Film.

The deal came after Indivior in April was indicted and accused of deceiving doctors and healthcare benefit programs into believing Suboxone Film, itself a form of opioid, was safer and less susceptible to abuse than similar drugs.

The indictment said Indivior also used an internet and telephone program touted as a resource for opioid-addicted patients to connect them to doctors it knew were prescribing Suboxone and other opioids at high rates and in suspect circumstances.

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<https://www.zerohedge.com/news/2019-07-12/drugmaker-pays-largest-opioid-settlement-history-make-investigations-go-away>