

# Pills seized weren't OxyContin, drugmaker says

Last Updated: Friday, November 14, 2008 | 4:48 PM ET [Comments](#)[Recommend](#)[8](#)

[CBC News](#)



Cape Breton Regional Police say it could take six weeks to get more answers about the pills. (CBC)

The pharmaceutical company that makes the painkiller OxyContin says the 25,000 pills seized by police in Sydney last week are knockoffs.

"At first glance, they seem to resemble the authentic brand product, but again, the markings are not consistent with what is manufactured by our company here in Canada," Randy Steffan, spokesman for Purdue Pharma, told CBC News Friday.

Cape Breton Regional Police seized the pills in a vehicle in downtown Sydney last Friday.

Police called it the biggest seizure of its kind in Atlantic Canada, if not the country. Investigators identified the pills as OxyContin and said they were worth about \$700,000 on the street.

So if it's not the prescription painkiller, what is it?

Staff Sgt. Paul Jobe said the pills have been sent to laboratories for further study.

"We are concerned about these pills being in the street if they are not the real thing," Jobe said. "Bad enough that they are, but even worse if they're not."

He said it could take up to six weeks to determine what's in the pills and whether they pose a health hazard.

Regardless of the lab results, Jobe said, the charges against the two accused — Christopher John Allingham of Eastern Passage and Todd Douglas Miller of Montreal — won't change.

"By holding it out to be a substance, there is an offence, and it's the same as if it was the real substance," Jobe said.

"But with illegally produced substances, our concern is with the quantitative amount of drug in that pill."

- [Post a comment](#)  
4Comments have been posted
- [Recommend this story](#)  
8People have recommended this story

## Story comments (4)

Sort: [Most recent](#) | [First to last](#) | [Most recommended](#)

[DillanJohnson](#) wrote:Posted 2008/11/15

at 3:28 PM ET"Regardless of the lab results, Jobe said, the charges against the two accused — Christopher John Allingham of Eastern Passage and Todd Douglas Miller of Montreal — won't change."

So if they're made of sugar and food coloring these people can still be convicted as drug dealers? That's odd. I have no sympathy for drug dealers, but I find it odd that one can be charged/convicted of dealing drugs when there aren't any.

[1Personrecommendedthis comment](#) | [Recommend this comment](#) | [Report abuse](#)

[Coyote](#) wrote:Posted 2008/11/15

at 9:13 AM ETSo, who would do a better job? May-- who couldn't get elected in her own riding. Maybe Dion-- Canada's version of Sarah Palin? Layton-- yah, he's just as good. Oh wait-- maybe you. You would be a GREAT prime minister. Everything would be superior.

If you haven't read the article (must be your superior reading skills-- which a budding Prime Minister like you should have), the Oxy's were counterfeit.

Yah-- I'd vote for you...

[1Personrecommendedthis comment](#) | [Recommend this comment](#) | [Report abuse](#)

[CdnAirForce](#) wrote:Posted 2008/11/15

at 7:24 AM ETJoshua: It's always Harper's fault, eh? If they were fakes, then how would they be "controlled pills"? Jeez, does anyone think before posting here?

[6Peoplerecommendedthis comment](#) | [6Recommend this comment](#) | [Report abuse](#)

[Joshua](#) wrote:Posted 2008/11/14

at 11:26 PM ETHarper says our economy is sound, our banks are secure and our superior system is working superiorly.

It's easier than explaining how 25,000 controlled pills went astray, or "fell through the cracks".

[1Personrecommendedthis comment](#) | [Recommend this comment](#) | [Report abuse](#)

- [Previous](#)
- [1](#)
- [Next](#)

**Post your comment**

Note: The CBC does not necessarily endorse any of the views posted. By submitting your comments, you acknowledge that CBC has the right to reproduce, broadcast and publicize those comments or any part thereof in any manner whatsoever. Please note that comments are pre-moderated/reviewed and published according to our [submission guidelines](#).

You must be logged in to leave a comment. [Log in](#) | [Sign up](#)

Comment:

[Submission policy](#)