

# Russian Nurse Accused of Stealing Medicine From Cancer Patients

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A nurse in Russia's Far East has been accused by local authorities of stealing vital medicine for cancer patients, according to a statement posted on the website of the regional Prosecutor's Office.

The employee at an oncology center in the Amur region is believed to have systematically stolen drugs worth more than 1 million rubles (\$15,700) between January 2015 and October 2016.

The medicine was then reportedly smuggled out of the hospital and resold in Moscow, according to the statement.

The Russian government [extended its list of approved painkillers](#) in July after cancer patients in Moscow faced shortages of certain medications over the summer.

Pressure groups have long [campaigned for cancer patients](#) to receive easier access to drugs

across Russia, with many claiming that current rules have led to a number of suicides among terminally ill people. According to Podari Zhizn, a foundation which helps cancer patients obtain pain medication, just 20–30 percent of patients receive the painkillers they need.

Original url:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2016/11/08/russian-nurse-accused-of-stealing-medicine-from-cancer-patients-a56047>