

New England Compounding Center owners and employees arrested and charged with killing 64 people

Dec 17, 2014 BOSTON — Fourteen employees of a Massachusetts compounding pharmacy were charged Wednesday in connection with a fungal [meningitis](#) outbreak that killed 64 people in several states, the United States attorney's office in Boston said.

Among those arrested were three members of the family whose business empire included the pharmacy — Gregory, Douglas and Carla Conigliaro — and Barry Cadden, a brother-in-law, who was also an owner. They were taken into custody in their homes before sunrise on Wednesday, a spokeswoman for the United States attorney's office said, Christina DiIorio-Sterling, said.

The charges are contained in a [131-count indictment](#) and include 25 predicate acts of second-degree murder. It includes counts of racketeering, conspiracy and mail fraud. Not all of the defendants, who were expected to make an initial court appearance on Wednesday, are accused of each count.

The indictment also names Glenn Adam Chin, 46, the head pharmacist of the company, who was arrested in September at Logan International Airport in Boston as he was about to board a flight to Hong Kong. At that time, he was charged with one count of mail fraud, the United States attorney's office said.

The most serious charges brought Wednesday were against Mr. Chin and Mr. Cadden. They are accused of racketeering and second-degree murder in seven states.

The arrests signal the beginning of criminal proceedings against the New England Compounding Center, whose contaminated drugs led to the deaths in the fall of 2012, the authorities say. More than 680 people were sickened.

The contamination caused an uproar and prompted new legislation about compounding pharmacies, which make specialized formulations of drugs for patients with particular needs. Over the years, such companies have grown into mass manufacturers distributing medicine all over the country, virtually unregulated by the federal government.

New England Compounding, now closed, was [owned by the Conigliaro family](#) of Massachusetts, which started its business empire with a recycling company created by one brother in 1990. The family later branched into [pharmaceuticals](#), riding changes in the health care landscape to become a major supplier of tailor-made drugs to hospitals, clinics and doctor's offices across the nation.

The charges filed against Mr. Chin in September, described in a criminal complaint provided by the United States attorney's office, accuse him of fraudulently labeling drugs as injectable and shipping them to a pain clinic in Michigan, where 217 patients eventually contracted fungal meningitis and 15 died.