

**LAW ENFORCEMENT AGAINST THE CRIMINAL ACT OF SALE OF CYTOTEC  
DRUGS AT THE SUKOHARJO RESORT POLICE OFFICE****Yoga Subekti Nugroho**Legal Science, Faculty of Law, Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta  
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[Mk122@ums.ac.id](mailto:Mk122@ums.ac.id)**ABSTRACT**

**Abstract:** Law enforcement against the illegal sale of Cytotec drugs for abortion purposes without a distribution permit in Sukoharjo is a serious concern because its use is regulated and requires a doctor's prescription, so that its impact is dangerous to public health. Cytotec, which should be used to treat gastric ulcers, is often misused as an abortion drug. This study uses an empirical legal method by collecting primary data through interviews and secondary data from various legal literature. The results of the study show that the Sukoharjo Police Resort succeeded in uncovering the drug sales network through cyber patrols and covert transactions. However, law enforcement still faces various obstacles, such as the modus operandi of online sales that make it difficult to track the perpetrators and the lack of witnesses willing to provide information. In terms of regulation, the distribution of Cytotec without a permit is a criminal act that can be prosecuted under the Health Law. Misuse of this drug risks causing serious health complications, including severe bleeding and the risk of death. To overcome the problem of the illegal distribution of Cytotec (Misoprostol), the government and BPOM have made various concrete efforts, such as raids and blocking sites and social media accounts that sell this drug illegally. For example, BPOM routinely collaborates with the Ministry of Communication and Information (Kominfo) to close access to e-commerce and marketplaces that are suspected of selling drugs without a distribution permit.

**Keywords :**Illegal abortion, Public education, Health, Hard drugs, Cyber patrol.

## INTRODUCTION

Premarital pregnancy is an increasingly common phenomenon in the modern era, especially due to changes in lifestyle among teenagers and young adults. Increasingly free association and lack of understanding of reproductive health contribute to the increase in unhealthy premarital relationships.<sup>1</sup> At first, this relationship may start with normal social interaction, but over time it can develop into risky sexual activities without considering the consequences. One of the impacts of this behavior is unplanned pregnancy, which often occurs in individuals who are still in the education stage or are not yet ready to get married and build a family.<sup>2</sup>

As a country that upholds the legal principles as stated in Article 1 paragraph 3 of the Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia (UUD 1945) which states that; "The State of Indonesia is a state of law". Two different interpretations or schools of thought about the legal conditions in the sense of *rechtstaat* and the legal conditions in the sense of the rule of law. are not specifically mentioned in the principles of the Indonesian state of law.

Regulations on the classification of types of drugs in Indonesia have been regulated in the Regulation of the Minister of Health (Permenkes) Number 917/Menkes/Per/X/1993 and Number 949/Menkes/Per/VI/2000. The purpose of the classification and classification is to improve the requirements for distribution, safety, and safe use. These drugs include narcotics, hard drugs, psychotropics, drugs mandated by pharmacies, limited over-the-counter drugs, and over-the-counter drugs. We can conclude that the survival of society is highly dependent on adequate health service factors. Society will be directly affected by any illegal activity in the health industry, both materially and immaterially, to prevent society from living a decent life<sup>3</sup>.

There have been many cases of the circulation of hard and illegal drug sales online, but there are still many obstacles. One of them is in terms of the weak security and supervision

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<sup>1</sup> Mulyadi W, et al. Peran lingkungan keluarga dalam menjaga kesehatan mental remaja perempuan dan meminimalisir pergaulan bebas di Kelurahan Kolo Kota Bima. *Taroo J Pengabdian Masyarakat* 2025;4(1):49-60.

<sup>2</sup> Sengkey MH, Santie YDA, Salem VET. Persepsi masyarakat tentang pernikahan wanita yang hamil di luar nikah di Desa Raanan Lama Kecamatan Motoling. *Indones J Soc Sci Educ.* 2022;2(2):76-83.

<sup>3</sup> Mama S. Tingkat pengetahuan, persepsi, dan sikap mahasiswa Thailand di Indonesia terhadap kehalalan obat [disertasi]. Malang: Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim; 2021.

system that regulates the circulation of hard drug sales online in Indonesia.<sup>4</sup> One important aspect that can be considered in the world of health is the availability of drugs as a benchmark for ensuring health factors for the wider community. This is because drugs are used as a means to save someone's life, a means of recovery or maintenance of health.<sup>5</sup>

Illegal sales of Cytotec drugs are currently common and have become a serious problem in Indonesia. Various websites, social media and online stores offer this drug without a doctor's prescription, which can increase the health risks for its users. These sites offer this drug with promises of fast and safe results, but do not provide clear information about the side effects and risks associated with its use. Cytotec is basically a drug consumed to prevent stomach ulcers due to consuming nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs/NSAIDs.<sup>6</sup>

The illegal drug trade is evidence that Indonesia's defense against public health threats is still lacking. The distribution of illegal drugs shows that the security of the Indonesian state is weak from certain products that endanger the wider community. By arresting five defendants in the case, the Bandung Police in West Java were able to destroy the illegal drug trade for abortion purposes. In a press conference held at the Bandung Police Headquarters on Monday, Bandung Police Chief Senior Commissioner Budi Sartono explained that the case was revealed when the police were able to arrest someone with the initials J who supplied illegal substances to terminate pregnancies. "From our cellphones we confiscated and analyzed. According to Budi, the individual with the initials J has a history of selling drugs and acts related to abortion. According to Budi, a more thorough investigation and analysis revealed that J had distributed illegal substances<sup>7</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> Yusriono B, Berampu LT, Yetti Y. Tanggung jawab hukum pelaku usaha penjualan obat-obatan golongan obat keras secara online. *J Sci Soc Res*. 2022;5(3):677-82.

<sup>5</sup> Samiaji R. Penegakan hukum terhadap peredaran produk obat [skripsi]. Semarang: Fakultas Syariah dan Hukum, Universitas Islam Negeri Walisongo; 2022.

<sup>6</sup> Rosanti OT. Cytotec [Internet]. 2023 [diakses pada tanggal 15 February]. Tersedia dari: <https://heloesehat.com/obat-suplemen/obatcytotec/>

<sup>7</sup> Primananda RJ, Merung G. Polisi bongkar praktik penjualan obat ilegal untuk aborsi di Bandung [Internet]. Antara News; 2023 Des 4 [diakses pada 15 Feb. 25]. Tersedia dari: <https://www.antaranews.com/berita/3854658/polisi-bongkar-praktik-penjualan-obat-ilegal-untuk-aborsi-di-bandung>

## **METHOD / IDEA**

The research method used in this study is empirical juridical, namely research conducted in the field with an emphasis on the collection of empirical data. The data sources used consist of primary and secondary data. Primary data is obtained directly from the source, such as the 1945 Constitution, the Criminal Code (KUHP), the Criminal Procedure Code (KUHP), and Law No. 17 of 2023 concerning Health Aspects<sup>8</sup>. Meanwhile, secondary data comes from books, articles, scientific journals, and print media such as magazines and newspapers. In addition, tertiary legal materials are also used as a complement to primary and secondary materials. Data collection techniques are carried out through interviews with direct question and answer methods between researchers and informants, as well as systematic recording of the data obtained. The collected data is then analyzed systematically based on interviews, field notes, and other sources so that the research results can be communicated well<sup>9</sup>.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Law Enforcement Efforts Against Illegal Sale of Cytotec Drugs**

The circulation of drugs without official permission is one of the serious problems in Indonesia, especially when the drugs have a harmful impact on public health. One of the cases that received attention was the illegal sale of Cytotec drugs handled by the Sukoharjo Police in 2023.<sup>10</sup> This case began with a cyber patrol conducted by the Opsnal Team on social media, where an account was found offering drugs without a doctor's prescription, including Cytotec. After communicating with the seller, officers managed to carry out a covert transaction (COD) and secure the perpetrator in Solo Baru.

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<sup>8</sup> Mukti Fajar ND, Achmad Y. Dualisme penelitian hukum: normatif & empiris. Yogyakarta: Pustaka Pelajar; 2010.

<sup>9</sup> Sugiyono. Metode penelitian kuantitatif, kualitatif, dan R&D. Bandung: Alfabeta; 2016.

<sup>10</sup> Yanti W. Pertimbangan hakim dalam menjatuhkan pidana terhadap pelaku penjualan obat aborsi di media online secara ilegal (studi putusan hakim nomor 141/PID.SUS/2017/PN.SGN) [skripsi]. Palembang: Fakultas Hukum, Universitas Sriwijaya; 2020.

The results of the examination revealed that the perpetrator was not a doctor or pharmacist, but a former worker at a pharmacy. The perpetrator sold various drugs, including Cytotec (Misoprostol 200 mg) which should be used to treat stomach ulcers, but is often misused to abort pregnancies. In addition, he also sold Tranexamic Acid (500 mg) which is used to stop bleeding, Ciprofloxacin HCl (500 mg) as an antibiotic to treat bacterial infections, and Ibuprofen (400 mg) which is used as an analgesic and antipyretic. The perpetrator distributed these drugs without permission and without a doctor's prescription, which has the potential to cause dangerous side effects for users.<sup>11</sup>.

*Cytotec*(misoprostol) has different legal statuses in different countries, depending on their respective pharmaceutical regulations and health policies. In Indonesia, misoprostol is classified as a prescription drug that is only permitted for certain medical indications, such as treating stomach ulcers, and its distribution is strictly monitored by the BPOM. Meanwhile, in countries such as France and the UK, misoprostol has received marketing authorization for use in medical abortion with clear regulations, including use in health facilities supervised by medical personnel. In the United States, the FDA allows the use of misoprostol in combination with mifepristone for medical abortion, but its distribution is strictly regulated through special programs to ensure its use is in accordance with medical recommendations. These differences in regulation show how a country's policy is influenced by legal, social, and public health factors in determining marketing authorization and use of certain drugs.<sup>12</sup>.

Regulatory Analysis and Legal Impact According to the results of coordination with the Health Service, Cytotec's distribution permit has been revoked by BPOM RI. In an effort to enforce the law, investigators conducted a case title and named a suspect with two sufficient pieces of evidence. The perpetrator was detained for 60 days for the investigation process before the case file was finally transferred to the prosecutor's office. The perpetrator can be charged with Article 197 of Health Law Number 36 of 2009 concerning the distribution of drugs without

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<sup>11</sup> Maulana DA, Suryokencono P. Pertanggungjawaban pidana bagi pihak marketplace dan penjual dalam jual beli obat ilegal jenis Cytotec secara online. *Indones J Law Justice*. 2023;1(2):9.

<sup>12</sup> Uita Anggun, Oksep Adhayanto, dan Irwandi Syahputra, "Penegakan Hukum Pidana Terhadap Penjual Obat Secara Online," *Student Online Journal (SOJ) UMRAH-Ilmu Sosial dan Ilmu Politik* 3, no. 1 (2022): 878-891

a permit, with the threat of a prison sentence of up to 15 years and a maximum fine of IDR 1.5 billion<sup>13</sup>.

Prevention Efforts and Recommendations To prevent similar incidents, several concrete steps are needed. First, increased supervision by the government and BPOM in monitoring the circulation of drugs on the market, including on online platforms. Second, public education about the dangers of using drugs without a doctor's prescription must continue to be encouraged. Third, strict law enforcement must be implemented so that cases like this can have a deterrent effect on other perpetrators.<sup>14</sup>

Obstacles in law enforcement against the crime of illegal sale of Cytotec drugs can be analyzed using the theory of legal effectiveness from Soerjono Soekanto. According to this theory, there are five main factors that influence the effectiveness of law enforcement, namely legal factors (Laws), law enforcement factors (parties that form and implement laws), community factors (the environment where the law applies), supporting facilities or facilities factors.<sup>15</sup> The effectiveness of the law in enforcing regulations against the illegal distribution of Cytotec (Misoprostol) in Indonesia can be analyzed using Soerjono Soekanto's theory of legal effectiveness, which includes five main factors. From the aspect of legal substance, existing regulations have strictly regulated the distribution of this drug, but there are still loopholes that allow illegal trade through unofficial channels, especially on digital platforms. The law enforcement factor shows that although BPOM and the police have the authority to supervise and take action, limited resources and the difficulty of tracking online transactions are the main obstacles. From the community's perspective, low legal awareness and high demand for Cytotec, both for medical and non-medical use, have contributed to the rampant illegal distribution. Meanwhile, supporting facilities or facilities such as monitoring systems and e-commerce regulations are still not optimal in suppressing the sale of this drug on the black market. Finally,

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<sup>13</sup> Uita Anggun, Oksep Adhayanto, dan Irwandi Syahputra, "Penegakan Hukum Pidana Terhadap Penjual Obat Secara Online," *Student Online Journal (SOJ) UMRAH-Ilmu Sosial dan Ilmu Politik* 3, no. 1 (2022): 878-891

<sup>14</sup> Jannah YR, Kusuma AM. Profil penjualan obat misoprostol/Cytotec pada website. *J Farmagazine*. 2017;4(2):19-25.

<sup>15</sup> Rosalina V. Penegakan hukum terhadap tindak pidana penjualan obat kadaluwarsa ditinjau dari perspektif hukum positif di Indonesia. *J Huk Lex Gen*. 2021;2(7):568-87.

the legal culture in Indonesia which still tends to be permissive towards purchasing drugs without a prescription makes law enforcement efforts less effective, so a more comprehensive approach is needed to overcome the illegal distribution of Cytotec more optimally.

Based on the results of research and interviews with the Sukoharjo Police conducted on December 3, 2024, it was discovered that the main obstacle in handling this case was the modus operandi of the perpetrators who conducted transactions online. The main perpetrators were outside the Sukoharjo area, while in this area there were only drug dealers. The sale of illegal abortion drugs carried out online is a challenge for the police in tracking and proving the crime. In addition, the low level of public awareness to report such cases is also an obstacle to law enforcement. The public tends not to report cases of illegal drug sales, either because of ignorance about the dangers of using the drugs.

However, the Sukoharjo Police Department emphasized that this obstacle is not an insurmountable obstacle, because they have certain observation and surveillance methods to continue to uncover the illegal abortion drug distribution network. Another challenge that arises in the legal process is at the stage of transferring the case to the prosecutor's office. The prosecutor demanded that there be witnesses who had purchased and used the drug from the suspect as part of other evidence.

### **Obstacles in Law Enforcement against Illegal Sale of Cytotec Drugs**

In an effort to enforce the law against the crime of illegal sale of Cytotec drugs, researchers conducted an interview with Head of Unit 2 of the Criminal Investigation Unit (Sat Reskrim) of the Sukoharjo Police, Mr. Faisal Firman Irfansyah, SH, MH. This interview aims to dig deeper into the obstacles faced by the police in the process of investigating and investigating this case.

According to Brigadier Faisal Firman Irfansyah, SH, MH, one of the main obstacles faced in uncovering cases of illegal abortion drug sales is that transactions are carried out online. This buying and selling system makes it more difficult for perpetrators to be tracked, especially because they often use fake identities and communication media that are not easily tracked by the police. In an interview, he stated<sup>16</sup>:

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<sup>16</sup> Wawancara dengan Banit 2 Sat Reskrim Polres Sukoharjo

*"The main obstacle we face in this case is the online sales method. The perpetrators are usually not in the Sukoharjo area, while here there are only dealers who act as distribution intermediaries. This makes the investigation more difficult because we have to trace the digital footprint and find sufficient evidence to prosecute the main perpetrators."*

In addition, the lack of public awareness to report illegal abortion drug sales practices is also a challenge. Many people are aware of such transactions, but they are reluctant to report them for various reasons, both because they are unaware of the dangers of the drug and because they are afraid of being involved in the legal process.

*"We see that the public is still less active in reporting cases like this. In fact, if there is information from the public, it will certainly be very helpful in the investigation process. Awareness to report needs to be increased so that the circulation of illegal drugs can be suppressed effectively."*

In the interview, Brigadier Faisal Firman Irfansyah, SH, MH as Assistant Investigator also explained that when the case has entered the investigation stage, another challenge arises, namely the lack of witnesses who can provide information regarding the purchase and use of drugs. Prosecutors often ask for witnesses who have purchased and used the drugs to be used as evidence in court. However, suspects are usually reluctant to provide information regarding the purchaser or even claim to have forgotten.

*"When we file a case with the prosecutor, the prosecutor asks for witnesses who have bought and used this drug. However, the suspect usually states that he has forgotten who bought it from him. This certainly complicates the evidence process in court."*

To overcome this obstacle, investigators conducted an examination of the suspect's cellphone used for the transaction. From the results of the examination, evidence was found in the form of a conversation with one of the buyers that was still stored, including photos of the results of using the drug. With this evidence, investigators finally managed to find a witness who could be examined further and used as evidence in court.

*"We are trying to find other evidence that can strengthen this case. After checking the suspect's cellphone, we found one buyer's number that was still stored. In the conversation, there was*

*proof of purchase, instructions for using the drug, and photos of the results of using the drug. From there, we were able to identify witnesses to strengthen the case."*

The conclusion of this interview shows that the main obstacle in law enforcement against the illegal sale of Cytotec drugs lies not only in the technical aspects of the investigation, but also in social factors, such as the lack of community participation in reporting cases and the difficulty in presenting witnesses in court. However, with the right investigation methods, such as digital data analysis and witness profiling, the police can still overcome these obstacles and continue the legal process against the perpetrators of this crime.

In addition to revealing the various obstacles faced in the investigation process, Mr. Firman also explained several strategies implemented by the police to overcome these challenges. One approach taken is to increase monitoring of online activities related to the distribution of illegal abortion drugs.

*"We continue to conduct cyber patrols to track the network that trades these drugs. Usually they transact through social media, online forums, or instant messaging applications. Therefore, we work together with the cyber team to track transaction patterns and identify the parties involved."*

## CONCLUSION

Law enforcement against the illegal sale of Cytotec drugs in Sukoharjo faces various challenges, especially because transactions are carried out online and it is difficult to obtain witnesses. The Sukoharjo Police have succeeded in uncovering the sales network through cyber patrols and covert transactions, although there are still obstacles in legal evidence and the investigation process. From a regulatory aspect, the distribution of this drug without a permit is a criminal act that is threatened with severe penalties according to the Health Law. To overcome the illegal distribution of Cytotec, stricter supervision is needed, increased public education about the dangers of using drugs without a prescription, and more effective law enforcement to provide a deterrent effect on perpetrators.

To overcome the illegal distribution of Cytotec drugs, two main steps are needed. First, increasing supervision and public education. The government and BPOM must tighten supervision of the distribution of hard drugs, especially on online platforms, to prevent their illegal distribution. In addition, public campaigns about the dangers of drug abuse need to be expanded so that the public is more aware of the legal and health risks that arise. Second, cross-sector collaboration and stricter law enforcement. The police, health services, and digital platforms must work together to prosecute perpetrators of illegal drug sales more effectively. Law enforcement must also be tightened by imposing heavier sanctions on perpetrators to provide a deterrent effect, as well as accelerating the legal process by utilizing digital technology in investigations.

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