**Introduction**

Lake Regional Medical manufactures and distributes medical products across the United States. Amongst the major medical products distributed by the company include antibiotics, anti-fungal, and painkillers. The company is envisioned to be the leading manufacturer and distributor of pharmaceutical drugs in the United States. However, attaining this rank is a difficult task for the company. This difficulty results from the various ethical issues likely to affect drug manufacturing companies. Being a sensitive sector, drug manufacturing and distribution industry can face severe ethical challenges that may ruin the reputation and even change the financial performance of a particular company. This discussion describes three major ethical issues or concerns that may face Lake Regional Medical Corporation as it continues with its production and distribution activities.

**Inflated Product Claims**

 Making inaccurate descriptions about the effectiveness of a drug may raise concerns by users. Lake Regional Medical Cooperation may face ethical challenges if the drug ingredients descriptions fail to correspond to the actual composition of particular medications. This may be evident if a specific drug is found not to produce the desired results when administered on patients. The medical conditions that drugs treat require to be approved by the Foods and Drugs Administration. This is achieved by the process known as drug 'label' or 'indication,' which is essential is a requirement by the FDA that drug manufacturers restrict their products only as approved by the body. In the case where a drug is prescribed to treat numerous conditions, and some of the conditions indicated have not been approved by the FDA, then the action becomes a violation of the ethical requirements by the FDA (Nussbaum, 2016). The offense is known as an off-label and does not conform to the requirements by the federal legislation. Despite the fact that physicians often prescribe off-label drug use to their patients, the federal law and the False Claim Act restricts them from the practice. Lake Regional Medical Corporation may end up battling legal suits against the violation of product claims acts on their drugs, and this may raise tremendous ethical concerns regarding the issue.

**Counterfeit**

Lake Regional Medical Corporation stands at a higher risk of accusations for producing counterfeit drug products. The allegations may result from inaccurate use of ingredients in correspondence to the labeling of the drug products. Improper labeling may be termed as counterfeit because the outward physical description does not reflect the internal components of the antibiotics, the painkillers or the anti-fungal drugs. Counterfeit accusations against the company may also be triggered by competitors who produce medicines that are similar in appearance to those produced by Lake Regional Medicine to make sales (Nussbaum, 2016). Such imitation creates confusion for the pharmacies and users of the drugs. When investigations are conducted, the famous company, which is Lake Regional Medicine, maybe the fight target. The allegations can raise ethical concerns leading to the ruining of the company's image. The counterfeit issue equally violates the safety aspect of drug use. As such, when the health of the patients becomes compromised, the manufacturer companies become targeted by the relevant authorities (Santoro & Gorrie, 2015).  Lake Regional Medicine should ensure that it places measures that would prevent any association of the company’s products with counterfeit products.

**Waste Disposal**

 Manufacturing companies have faced accusations on the issue of improper waste disposal. The waste disposal subsequently harms the environment and its occupants. As a drug manufacturing company, Lake Regional Medical Corporation deals with many chemicals. The unprocessed may harm the living organisms if left to fall on land or in the air for lack of proper disposal management. Expired chemicals and drugs are also very harmful to human and animal health, and when left to fall on land or fume in the air, the results can negatively affect the health of people and raise ethical questions. Ethical concerns regarding the improper management of waste disposal is a crucial factor for companies to consider (Santoro & Gorrie, 2015).  Businesses have been accused of harming the environment by letting the wastes into rivers and which puts residents’ lives at threat. Lake Regional Medical should make efforts to ensure that their waste disposal techniques do not become harmful to the environment because the action can affect the image and performance of the company.

**Conclusion**

 Lake Regional Medical should be ready and prepared to address the drawbacks of its operations, which may likely result from the violation of ethical standards set by the federal government. To maintain the ethical standards, the corporation should devise a unit for ethical guidelines that will be entitled to check aspects of the company activities that may place it at a negative moral position. As the company strives to be amongst the best pharmaceutical manufacturers in the United States, the need to monitor ethical moves and standards is crucial for attaining success. The three ethical issues are continuing to trend in the pharmaceutical sector and any company that requires achieving a top-level in rendering drugs to the public to uphold to the standards.

**References**

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