The Daily Dish

We Told You So

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Eakinomics is enraged. Always. But especially after reading this story by CNBC that leads with:

> *Hims & Hers Health on Wednesday said it will offer five formulations of peptides and longevity treatments compounded in the U.S. as part of the initial rollout of its Peptides+ platform, all of which are not approved by regulators.*
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> *Even as it announced the new products, Hims & Hers acknowledged it has more to learn about how best to use the peptides and how effective they are — underscoring the uncertainty surrounding the growing space.*
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> *The new offerings come after the federal government eased restrictions on compounding certain unapproved peptides, which are short chains of amino acids. Those products have exploded in popularity among fitness and longevity enthusiasts who attest that they help with muscle growth, rapid injury recovery and anti-aging, even though most lack evidence from robust human trials.*

We told you so. Michael Baker and I warned of "eased restrictions" at length in a letter to Secretary Kennedy at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and in a short, digestible Eakinomics. Our main fear:

> *There are no FDA-approved versions of these substances. Consequently, the central concern is not that compounded products will displace approved equivalents. It is that compounding could become an enduring pathway through which drugs are broadly marketed without completing the established regulatory process.*

HHS ignored us, and just that fast Hims & Hers is providing a broadly marketed pathway for these peptides, even though the company acknowledges it has no idea if the peptides work and the Food and Drug Administration has not certified that they are safe. Still, the slippery rollout says that these are drugs "that adhere to rigorous quality standards and are licensed and inspected by state boards of pharmacy."

There are a couple of other beauties thrown in for irritation on top of enragement. "Hims said it plans to add more peptides and therapies made in the U.S. over time." What does this mean? It means for now we have exactly no idea where they're made, how they're made, or what methods are used. Good luck with that. And what the hell does "fitness and longevity enthusiasts" mean? Are there people opposed to fitness or longevity?

We told you so. And now the real danger is that this becomes common practice.