

OxyContin Maker Pleads Guilty, and Will Pay \$8B and Close Company

“Purdue Pharma, the maker of OxyContin, has agreed to plead guilty to three federal criminal charges for its role in creating the nation’s opioid crisis and will pay more than \$8 billion and close down the company,” reports Chris Isidore in *CNN Business*.

“The money will go to opioid treatment and abatement programs. The privately held company has agreed to pay a \$3.5 billion fine as well as forfeit an additional \$2 billion in past profits, in addition to the \$2.8 billion it agreed to pay in civil liability.”

“The company doesn’t have \$8 billion in cash available to pay the fines. So Purdue will be dissolved as part of the settlement, and its assets will be used to create a new ‘public benefit company’ controlled by a trust or similar entity designed for the benefit of the American public. The Justice Department said it will function entirely in the public interest rather than to maximize profits. Its future earnings will go to paying the fines and penalties, which in turn will be used to combat the opioid crisis.”

Read the article.