

Drug diversion program: A comprehensive process for prevention and identification



There is no actual or potential conflict of interest in relation to this presentation

What is drug diversion?

The National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators provides the following definition for drug diversion:

“Drug diversion can be defined as any criminal act or deviation that removes a prescription drug from its intended path from the manufacturer to the patient.”



What is drug diversion?

- Healthcare employees are not immune and can become addicted
- Generally, healthcare providers divert for personal use and are extremely secretive about it
- Drug diversion by healthcare providers is universal among institutions in the U.S.



Occupational Factors

- Stress, fatigue and burnout
- Physical demands of the job, injuries and chronic pain
- Easy access to controlled substances
- Knowledge of drugs
- Sense of control



Escalation of Signs

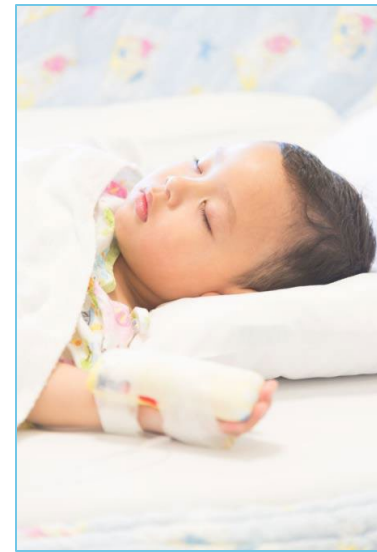
When healthcare providers are abusing drugs and are unable to obtain them from a prescription, they may turn to diversion. Some signs might include:

- Incorrect controlled substance counts
- Large amounts of controlled substance wastage
- Numerous corrections of medication records
- Reports of ineffective pain relief from patients
- Offers to medicate co-workers' patients for pain
- High number of controlled substance transactions compared to their peers in the department
- Not following waste process with witness
- Picking up shifts/working outside of shift/ Little use of PTO



Potential for harm

- Impaired provider treating a patient
- Patient's untreated pain
- Patients exposed to bloodborne pathogens or to unsafe substances
- Risk to themselves, other co-workers
- Institution



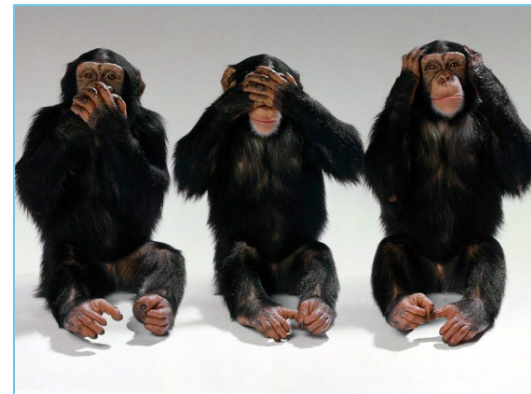
Methods used to divert drugs

- Sharps bin
- ADM
- Waste
- Tampering with vials/IV bags or lines
- Left out/unattended/unsecured
- False documentation of administration
- Fraudulent prescriptions

Reporting suspected drug diversion

Why many delay reporting:

- Uncertainty or disbelief
- Hoping the problem will go away (isolated event)
- Concern about what getting involved will mean for them or unit
- Friendship



BSWH DRUG DIVERSION PROGRAM

Allocation of Resources

PREVENTION

Education

- Orientation
- Residents
- Staff Training
- Web Based

Controls & Accountability

- Policy & Processes
- Peer reviews
- Best Practices

Medicine Security Rounds

- Security Gaps
- On-the-Spot Training
- Mock Surveys

Lessons Learned

Education

Metrics

Policy Updates

DETECTION

Monitoring/Auditing

- Analytics of all drug transactions
 - Dept. Leader Audits
 - DDO/Pharmacy Audits
- MIDAS tracking
- Prelim investigations
- Badge and video audits
- Co-worker reporting

Urine Drug Screens

- For Cause/Reasonable Suspicion
- Random

HR

ANESTHESIA

INTERNAL AUDIT

COMPLIANCE

NURSING

RISK/LEGAL

PHARMACY

PUBLIC SAFETY

DDO

NARCOTIC OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

RESPONSE

CS Response Team

- 24 hr. response
- Action Plans
- DEA/TSBP/BON Reporting

DDO Investigations

- Interviews
- Surveillance
- Additional Audits
- Case Reporting/Tracking
- Law Enforcement Referrals

Substance Abuse Help

- TX Peer Assistance Program for Nurses
- TX Physician Health Program

Drug Diversion Officers

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