

## Drug Diversion: Define, Recognize, & Prevent

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\*No Conflicts of Interest to Disclose



## Learning Objectives

1. Pharmacists & Pharmacy Technicians will recognize common risk points for drug diversion.
2. Pharmacists & Pharmacy Technicians will identify recommended strategies to manage & prevent diversion risks.



## What is Drug Diversion?

- Prescription drug diversion is defined as the transfer of a prescription drug from a lawful to an unlawful channel of distribution or use.
- What are some examples of drug diversion within the healthcare system?

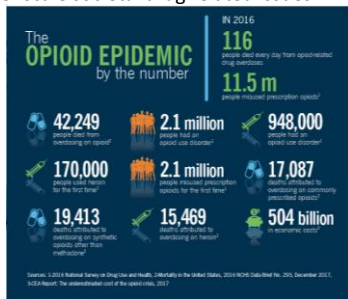


## Why is this important to us in Pharmacy?

- An estimated 1 in 10 of healthcare professionals will misuse drugs during their career.
- Drug diversion can have high impacts on patient care.
- Drug diversion within healthcare organizations can result in significant legal & regulatory consequences.
- A high percentage of 2018 publically reported Healthcare Organization drug diversion occurred within the Pharmacy or Hospital/Medical Center setting.



- Healthcare organization diversion contributes to larger scale societal drug related issues.



Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) updated infographic:  
<https://www.hhs.gov/opa/infographics/infographic-2018-01-01-opioid-epidemic.pdf>



## How can we help prevent diversion?

### “Building a Culture of Awareness”

- Teach Employees to recognize & report unusual behavior.
  - Identify Areas of high loss potential
  - Identify Workers with a high risk potential for drug diversion
  - Create a safe & anonymous reporting system



### What are some common areas of controlled substance loss risk?

- Procurement
- Preparation & Dispensing
- Prescription
- Administration
- Waste & Removal



Picture taken from <https://www.compoundingnation.com/>



### Discussion

- List some examples of areas within your healthcare system with a high potential for drug diversion?
- What are some methods of practice you use to prevent these types of diversion?



### What are some recommended pharmacy practice methods we can use to prevent drug diversion?

- Administrative Level Methods
  - Establish dedicated Drug Diversion Prevention Teams
  - Enforce an Organization Specific Drug Diversion Policy
  - Education & Awareness Programs



Picture taken from <https://www.drugdiversion.com/>



### What are some recommended pharmacy practice methods we can use to prevent drug diversion?

- System Level Methods
  - Human Resource Management
  - Automation
  - Monitoring/Surveillance
  - Investigation
  - Anonymous Reporting Media

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### What are some recommended pharmacy practice methods we can use to prevent drug diversion?

- Clinical Practice Methods
  - Segregation of Duties
  - Secure CSs at all times
  - Blind Inventory Counts
  - Discrepancy Management
  - Dose Reconciliation
  - Reduce Paper-based documentation
  - CS waste/removal policy
  - Require CS dispense & receipt documentation




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### Discussion

- Which of these practice methods discussed do you currently implement in your own practice?
- Can you recognize an area for improvement within your own practice that could help your institution prevent drug diversion?

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## Review Question 1

Which of the following is a common risk point for drug diversion within the Healthcare system?

- a. Blind Counted Automatic Dispense Cabinet Inventories
- b. Self-contained CS Vault Systems with Electronic Documentation
- c. Video Monitored Pharmacy IV preparation
- d. Clinical Areas with high CS dispense quantities

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## Review Question 2

Which of the following is a method commonly used by healthcare institutions to prevent drug diversion?

- a. Wasting CS into sharps containers
- b. Maintaining a drug discrepancy policy & regularly reviewing discrepancy resolution.
- c. Promoting shift time variation & overlapping shifts.
- d. Adopting generalized drug diversion policies from an outside institution.

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