Pharmaceutical abuse and addiction

The illegal diversion of prescription drugs occurs in a variety of ways, by all segments of our population, in all neighborhoods and workplaces. Its abuse is overlooked by thinking that if a doctor prescribes the drug, and a pharmacist dispenses the medication, it can’t be abused. Understanding that the top prescription drugs of abuse are as addictive and valuable as illicit drugs, is difficult to comprehend.

Prescription drug abuse accounts for at least 30% of the overall drug problem in the United States, second only to marijuana abuse according to recent government statistics. Pharmaceutical diversion reaps large profits for the traffickers, results in huge losses and potential liability for health facilities, devastation for abusers and their families, and potential harm and even death to innocent patients.

Scope of the problem

Health facilities across the country face drug diversion issues on a regular basis. These issues require sensible and organized plans on how to deal with the problem before it surfaces at your institution, and how to successfully deal with it when it does. Health care facilities are often unaware of the types and methods of pharmaceutical diversion that are taking place in their institution, sometimes on a daily basis.

When drugs are being diverted by health care professionals, the care, comfort, and even lives of their patients can be jeopardized. Seldom do these drugs reach the street for sale. Instead, health care professionals actually use these drugs while working in the facility. In addition to the patient care issues, it creates enormous potential legal liability for the facility.

The time for education, and prevention, is now!

How we can help

PDE Inc. feels that the drug diversion issues in health facilities should be a top priority of any institution.

Developing the best measures to prevent it from happening in the first place is paramount. When, not if, drug diversion surfaces at your facility, effectively dealing with involved employees, while safeguarding your patients should be your first priority to provide a successful outcome.

Pharmaceutical Diversion Education Inc. will provide you with a comprehensive review of all aspects of your health facility’s status when it comes to pharmaceutical diversion issues. Formal education sessions will also be provided, along with a detailed written final report, and an open door for possible follow up questions for you and your staff.
Our Program

Pharmacist Consultant Team
Pharmaceutical Diversion Education Inc. (PDE) offers your health facility an extensive review of the handling of your controlled substances and other pharmaceuticals. This includes all areas of your health facility where drug diversion is a possibility. This review is carried out by the most experienced health facility compliance pharmacists in the country.

With a combined 100+ years of experience as pharmacists and 40 years of experience in both the health facility setting and in regulatory affairs, our team will identify areas for improvement and assist you in the formulation of a prevention program to reduce and/or eliminate drug diversion.

You can be assured when the review is finished, all aspects of diversion possible in your facility have been examined, including specific trouble spots like your emergency department and operating room. The pharmacists provide suggestions and guidance to your staff and provide a detailed report of their findings that include recognition of positive aspects and suggestions for improvement.

Regulatory-Education Team
The team approach offered by Pharmaceutical Diversion Education Inc. includes consultants with a combined total of over 60 years in law enforcement, and over 25 years specializing in the field of pharmaceutical diversion in health facilities. These consultants have been involved in hundreds of cases focusing on health facility diversion, with a continual working relationship with the Pharmacist Consultant Team.

The Regulatory-Education Team will look at your facility’s hiring practices, drug testing, and other issues designed to keep the potential drug diverting employee from ever being a part of your staff. This team will also examine how drug diversion issues are handled once they are discovered in your health facility.

The team suggests proven methods to assist your facility in coordinating and expediting the internal investigation. This includes when law enforcement and regulatory agencies should be contacted, and obligations your health facility has in satisfying DEA regulations.

PDE Inc. provides extensive education in prescription drug abuse and provides training for your staff to create an awareness of the signs of drug diversion. A smaller training session is provided with key health professional supervisors to discuss additional employee concerns.

Education includes identifying the profile of the person diverting drugs from your health facility, their scams, how to deal with that individual(s), and sure fire ways to reduce your likelihood of becoming a target. Health professionals, health facility administrators, risk management, human resources, and other departments benefit from these trainings.

Commander John Burke

Commander John Burke was with the Cincinnati Police Division for 32 years, and now is the Commander of the Warren County Ohio Drug Task Force. He formed the Police Division’s Pharmaceutical Diversion Squad in 1990, and commanded that unit until October 1999, when he retired to help address the drug problems of a neighboring county. The PDS is considered by many to be the top pharmaceutical diversion unit in the United States. The PDS was featured on NBC’s Dateline for their efforts in the pursuit of health care professionals involved in the illegal diversion of pharmaceutical drugs from health care facilities. Commander Burke has conducted hundreds of presentations on pharmaceutical diversion. He can help attendees identify the problems, find the solutions, and institute a preventative program.

The Time for Education and Prevention is NOW

The diversion of pharmaceuticals occurs in all health facilities. Knowing what to do when this problem arises in your health facility, or more importantly, how to help prevent it, should be a top priority.