



Reducing Illegal Diversion

As you are aware, the pharmaceutical distribution industry is changing to improve patient safety and curtail an epidemic of prescription drug abuse. These changes can be a challenge for all involved in the supply chain, and as “your strongest ally,” The Harvard Drug Group is committed to taking a leadership position on this issue and providing you, our valued pharmaceutical partners, with tools and information related to prescription drug diversion.

One such tool is Harvard Drug’s Illegal Diversion Indicators. These Indicators are intended to help you identify the early warning signs of potential drug diversion. Please note that the more of the following traits a patient exhibits, the more likely they are to be engaging in illegal drug diversion:

- If a patient asks for a controlled drug by its brand name (many believe that a brand name would have a higher resale value on the black market)
- If the patient has a lack of familiarity with the prescribing physician
- If the patient and/or prescribing physician are from out of town
- If the patient’s demeanor is overly friendly, nervous, or aberrant
- If the patient is trying to pay cash instead of using insurance
- If a prescriber’s prescription pattern is different from that of other prescribers in the area (e.g., more prescriptions for controlled substances or prescriptions for larger quantities of controlled drugs)
- If a prescriber writes for antagonistic drugs (e.g., stimulant and depressant at the same time)
- If a patient returns to the pharmacy more frequently than expected (e.g., prescription quantities do not last as long as expected)
- If a patient presents multiple prescriptions for the same drug written for different people
- If a number of people appear within a short time period for the same controlled drug from the same physician, or a large number of previously unknown patrons show up with prescriptions from the same physician
- If a patient presents a prescription that shows evidence of possible forgery (e.g., unusual directions or quantities, no abbreviations, apparent erasures, unusual legibility, evidence of photocopying)

If you suspect illegal drug diversion report it to the proper authorities right away. Please visit <http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/> to view a list of DEA resources by state.



THE HARVARD DRUG GROUP^{LLC}
your strongest ally