





The new hot topic in the news is the epidemic America has: Prescription Pain Drug Abuse





This particular stat came out of California, but there were multiple examples across the country where the leading cause of accidental death is prescription pain medications (opioid use). This national problem has brought increased scrutiny to physicians, pharmacists and drugs wholesalers from regulators, policy makers and law enforcement.



Title 21 Code of Federal Regulations

Section 1306.04 Purpose of issue of prescription.

(a) A prescription for a controlled substance to be effective must be issued for a legitimate medical purpose by an individual practitioner acting in the usual course of his professional practice. The responsibility for the proper prescribing and dispensing of controlled substances is upon the prescribing practitioner, <u>but a</u> <u>corresponding responsibility rests with the pharmacist who</u> <u>fills the prescription.</u> An order purporting to be a prescription issued not in the usual course of professional treatment or in legitimate and authorized research is not a prescription within the meaning and intent of section 309 of the Act (<u>21 U.S.C. 829</u>) and the person knowingly filling such a purported prescription, as well as the person issuing it, shall be subject to the penalties provided for violations of the provisions of law relating to controlled substances.

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Pharmacists are required by DEA regulations to ensure that prescriptions for controlled substances are dispensed for a legitimate medical purpose. This legal responsibility is pursuant to Title 21 code of Federal regulations. The important point of this regulation is "the corresponding responsibility rests with the pharmacist who fills the prescription"



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Early this year the DEA took action against Walgreens. In April DEA Agents executed inspection warrants on 6 Walgreens pharmacies. An administrative subpoena was simultaneously served on the Jupiter, Florida Distribution Center. In addition the DEA requested data from two more stores and the mail facility in Orlando. These warrants and subpoena requested production of certain records of controlled substance prescriptions, transaction data, including form of payment, and other prescription information.

In response, we voluntarily and proactively removed all Clls, xanax and soma from the 8 stores

In September when the Immediate Suspension Order was issued to Jupiter, all C3-5 had already been shifted to other DCs. All C2 product we had at Jupiter was locked up by the DEA

In November, DEA issued an Order to Show Cause to 3 of the 6 pharmacies that were initially visited in April. Hearings will also be scheduled in these matters Redacted - Attroney Client Privileged and Attorney Work Product

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In December we started a pilot in FL and Vegas where we have the pharmacies complete a checklist for each rx filled for a Target Drug (oxy, hydromorphone, methadone) and call the prescriber for quantities over 120 (>60 for cash rx's) at least once every 90 days

This month we sent sanction letters to 8 prescribers in NJ and PA to let them know we will no longer accept controlled substance prescriptions written by them in our pharmacies.

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While our first responsibility is to help patients secure the medications they need, we also understand our role in helping reduce the inappropriate use of controlled substances in the communities we serve. As part of our ongoing commitment, we have taken action to focus our field and store leadership on good faith dispensing.

In June we re-launched our Good Faith Dispensing policy. However, we have learned more about DEA's expectations around GFD and we felt the steps we were taking with GFD did not go far enough. The game has changed; we can no longer rely on the "I spoke to the prescriber and he said it was okay." This is especially true when the prescriber may be assisting the patient to inappropriately use controlled substances. We are going down a different path now and we have to make sure that we are prepared.

So, we are piloting the TD GFD in a FL and NV. This consists of a checklist to be used every fill and a required phone call to the prescriber at least once every 90 days.

Another pilot is the prescriber sanctioning where we identified high prescribing physicians over select controlled substances as compared to their peers. In some cases, opioid pain medications are all some of these physicians prescribe. This type of prescribing pattern can put us at risk if we do not ensure the prescriptions were issued for a legitimate medical purpose. In certain cases, the risk to continue dispensing these medications is too great and Walgreens will no longer fill controlled substances issued by these prescribers.

We had a COMPASS Communication last week announcing that we are removing Invalid DEAs What is it?

A new IC+ enhancement is being released this week that will flag and remove Invalid DEA #'s

How will I know the DEA number was removed because it was invalid? When the prescriber's DEA # is removed, a message will be put in the comment field of the Prescriber Inquiry window that says: WARNING INVALID DEA #. DO NOT ADD DEA #. DO NOT FILL C2-5 Rxs FOR THIS PRESCRIBER.

What do I need to know?

Pharmacy staff must look in the prescriber inquiry window for the message above before adding a DEA #. If the message above is in the profile, do not register the prescriber again and do not add the DEA # back into IC+.

Pharmacy staff must verify that the prescriber's DEA number is valid from the DEA website before registering any prescriber. SNet -> RxOps-> Filling Prescriptions -> Good Faith Dispensing -> DEA Diversion Website -> Registration Validation or

click link below

(https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/webforms/validateLogin.jsp)

What do I do if this is a refill?

Speak with the patient to ask if they have a new prescriber they would like you to contact for a new prescription. If they do not have a new prescriber, they need to contact their existing prescriber for next steps, as Walgreens cannot fill this prescription under the current prescriber.

What if this is a new prescription?

Return the prescription to the patient and let them know they need to contact the prescriber for next steps.



So, what is the impact of GFD? I cannot stress enough that we cannot approach this as "impacting volume". Our objective is a safe and regulated environment to keep our stores/pharmacists from scrutiny from these agencies.

Realistically, bottom line, yes sales are going to be impacted. However, some would say that we shouldn't even be filling some of these prescriptions.

How is this going to impact my sales, what is it going to do to my "good customers" numbers show that we can address the issue without significantly impacting our other business.





Rx #	Store	Sold Date	Campaign ID	DEA #	Prescriber First Name	Prescriber Last Name	Drug	RPH	Consult Completed Date	Comments	Sold
1491441	Yvvv	12/28/2012	Doctor Suspension	AP6572716	NATE	PETTINGER	OXYCODON E 30MG IMMEDIATE REL TABS		12/28/12 7:20 PM	Consultatio n Completed:	YES
1900255		12/26/2012	Doctor	BP4716594		POGUE	CONTOUR TEST STRIPS 100'S		12/26/12 1:33 PM	Consultatio n Completed:	YES
3002349	Yuu	12/26/2012	Doctor Suspension	BP4716594	IAMES	POGUE	VIT D 50,000 IU D2 (ERGO) CAPS (RX)	ERL	12/26/12 12:01 PM	Consultatio n Completed:	YES
3017623			Doctor Suspension			POGUE	OMEPRAZO LE 20MG CAPSULES		12/26/12 12:01 PM	Consultatio n Completed:	YES

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Mkt Name	Dist #	Dist Name	Store #	Store Address	State	Index Trending Since May	3 Mo. Avg Daily Script Ct	In Chain Top 500	
Market Name	Ххх	District Name	хххх	1111 Main St Anywhere	xx	Deterioration 100+ since May	189	×	×
Market Name	Xxx	District Name	XXXX	1111 Main St Anywhere	xx	Deterioration 500+ since May	363	x	x
Market Name	Xxx	District Name	XXXX	1111 Main St Anywhere	xx	Neutral/stable trend	65	×	
Market Name	xxx	District Name	XXXX	1111 Main St Anywhere	XX	Deterioration 400+ since May	176	×	
 Ranking Indexing the same same same same same same same sam	g is de g colu ne	termined mn tells y	by we ou if t	in the chail eighted met he store ha	trics as impr				yed

You'll get a spreadsheet provided that shows you the top 500 Potential Risk Stores in the company for Oxycodone. Most recently, the data was for the previous 3 months ending November 2012. The ranking is determined by weighted metrics: Overall unit volume

Change in unit volume current 3 months vs prior 3 months

Proportionality to total script business % Paid by cash (or cash discount card)

note: you may not have any, as this is the top 500 stores only Index Trending column tells you how the store has improved or deteriorated since May (for the last report generated)

This gives you an indication of where GFD efforts should be focused, particularly if you have a "deterioration of 500+" for a store. This means that 3 months ago, the store was not on the list for Top 500 and now is not only on the list, but in the Top 100.







DEA regulations require that distributors (i.e.; the Walgreen distribution centers) must take reasonable measures to identify its customers, understand the normal and expected transactions conducted by those customers, and identify transactions that are suspicious in nature. Orders must be assessed to ensure that quantities for controlled substances at a specific location are reasonable. In making such assessments, a wholesale distributor may consider the purchasing entity's clinical business needs, location, and population served. In addition, Walgreens must report to the DEA any order that is deemed suspicious.

So the system takes into account normal accumulation for the store over the last 6 weeks and the maximum (a.k.a. ceiling) they should have over a rolling 6 weeks.



From an inventory perspective, we are working to ensure stores that are dispensing more controlled substances than the average are brought down closer to the average. These outliers will see a decrease or in some cases, we'll stop shipping certain controlled substances to them until they are brought down to the appropriate levels.





All receipts count toward the store's rolling six week volume.







This is not just a Walgreen issue, this is an industry wide issue. We have been working with or are in conversations with various organizations

Talk to some of the meetings/conversations......

As we further advance our pharmacy practices to meet these new challenges, we continue to believe that addressing prescription drug abuse will require all parties – including leaders in the community, physicians, pharmacies, distributors and regulators – to play a role in finding practical solutions to combatting abuse while balancing patient access to critical medication

Our goal is to lead the industry to a solution for this problem that affects all areas of healthcare.



Many state regulators or agencies will ask for your participation in different task forces or committees because of the national presence Walgreens brings. We do need your help, but we also want to make sure that the person participating is fully versed on the national issue and not just seeing it from a district, state, or local level. Contact me or Al Carter and we will ensure that you have what you need from corporate before agreeing to participate.

This is an opportunity to make sure that laws and regulations that are created don't hinder us from continuing in expanding our pharmacy practice to the highest level.

