Drug diversion is a growing risk to hospitals & health systems

Know your drug diversion risk
Hospitals can uncover drug diverters in their organization every year. Even hospitals that have taken measures to prevent, identify and respond to drug diversion activities find it isn’t enough to stop the theft and misuse of controlled substances. Identifying the gaps is key to uncovering vulnerability and developing a stronger program.

Moving beyond trust
Our experience reveals the unfortunate fact that a controlled substance philosophy based on ‘trust’ can backfire when it comes to stopping diversion. The strategy to prevent and detect diversion must be based on a culture of accountability and safety, employing checks and balances across the medication use process. Drug diversion should be countered with a formal multidisciplinary program that will protect patients, practitioners and employees.

The expanding costs of drug diversion
Drug diversion costs aren’t limited to medication costs. While those losses are significant and should be considered, safety risk to patients and employees is paramount.

• Patients suffer when medications are diverted – tainted needles cause infection and stolen or diluted medications result in sub-therapeutic dosing for pain management.
• Employees suffer. The healthcare delivery team can be greatly affected by coworkers under the influence and the coworker’s resulting negative impact on patient care.
• Organizational reputation suffers, and fines and sanctions may be imposed by the DEA or other regulatory bodies.

Make it difficult to divert
The simple truth is that hospitals are significant sources of drug theft and abuse largely due to easy access and a lucrative street market. Even drug diversion programs considered compliant with applicable sections of DEA Title 21 Part 1300 find it’s not enough to stop theft and misuse of controlled substances. Visante’s unique, interdisciplinary drug diversion program prioritizes patient and worker safety, secures physical risk points and helps assure compliant practices.
Visante brings the expertise and experience you need.

Visante’s Drug Diversion Prevention consulting services:

Our program aims to take an aggressive stance against drug diversion and to minimize risk through the use of pharmacy operations, informatics, automation specialists and nursing experts to identify and strengthen points of vulnerability.

- **Drug diversion audit:** Validate system performance through an assessment of risk points throughout chain of custody. Audit includes review of all policies, procedures, reports, and documentation related to management of controlled substances.

- **Drug diversion program assessment:** Comprehensive assessment of the existing drug diversion program, including controlled substance handling, diversion prevention, monitoring, detection, and management of diversion events. Includes review of all policies, procedures, reports and documentation related to the management of controlled substances plus an on-site visit to observe and interview key staff, and identify risk areas.
  - On-site visits provided for single site, multi-site, systems and ambulatory care. Daily debriefings given for each site visit.
  - Executive briefing at the end of the engagement to provide a high-level summary of risk points and opportunities.
  - Written report outlining key recommendations that will result in measurable improvements – financial, clinical and culture of safety.

- **Drug diversion program development and implementation:** Develop and implement a customized program based on our assessment to provide a long-term strategy for success and to help you fully meet your prevention goals.

Visante’s Drug Diversion Compliance technology solution

Our simple to use technology solutions bring our experts’ in-depth, real world experience to your fingertips. Powered by our partner Pharmacy Stars, this simple application can greatly improve your ability to uncover diversion at every stage of the medication process. It’s a convenient, cost effective way to control your variables.

To find out more, contact us at solutions@visanteinc.com or (866) 388-7583, or visit visanteinc.com.