

How Can You Better Manage Controlled Substances In Your VA Facility?

Keeping track of controlled substances can be a **real challenge**¹



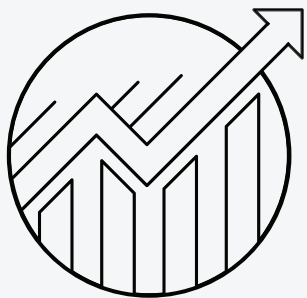
Diverted for personal use



Sold on the street



Simply disappeared



Drug losses or theft at federal hospitals¹:

272
incidents in 2009

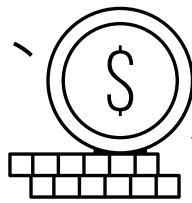
2,926
incidents in 2015

2,457
incidents in 2016

Drug diversion at a VA facility:

4,000 Oxycodone pills
3,300 Hydrocodone pills
308 oz. Promethazine with codein syrup
14,000+ Viagra and Cialis pills

Pharmacy technician used his VA access to a medical supplier's web portal to **order and divert**³



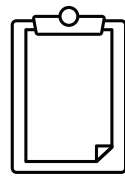
Cost of
\$77,000
to the facility

Street value of
\$160,000+

How does this affect the community?
Opioids released for
illegal use

Patients did not get their
medications

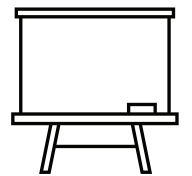
Nonadherence to Veterans Health Administration policy at select facilities²



Lacked preventive procedures for missed inspections



Written procedures did not fully include the 9 VHA program requirements



Lack of training on required inspection procedures



GAO recommendations for VA medical facilities²

1

Establish an additional control procedure

2

Periodically compare facility inspection procedures to VHA's policy requirements

3

Improve training of controlled substance coordinators

4

Design and implement a process to address nonadherence with program requirements

5

Review facilities' quarterly trend reports for nonadherence

6

Establish and implement a review process to comply with VHA's policy requirements

¹ DeBenedette V. Drug diversion on the rise at VA Medical Centers. Drug Topics. February 21, 2017.

² United States Government Accountability Office, Report to the Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs, House of Representatives. VA Health Care: Actions Needed to Ensure Medical Facility Controlled Substance Inspection Programs Meet Agency Requirements. February 2017.

³ Veterans Affairs Employees Charged with Stealing and Selling Prescription Drugs. (February 8, 2017). Retrieved April 24, 2017, from <https://www.justice.gov/usao-edar/pr/veterans-affairs-employees-charged-stealing-and-selling-prescription-drugs>.

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