



U.S. Department of Justice
Drug Enforcement Administration
Philadelphia Division
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DRUG INTELLIGENCE ALERT

DEA SEEKS ASSISTANCE FROM PHARMACIES IN IDENTIFYING PRESCRIPTION DRUG VIOLATORS

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Philadelphia Division is committed to working with pharmacies throughout the state of Pennsylvania in combating the misuse of prescription drugs. Preventing prescription drug abuse and the related criminal activity of pharmaceutical diversion and distribution is one of our priorities. Intelligence and other indicators suggest that demand and availability for prescription drugs on the illicit market remains high.

The lucrative prescription drug market and relative ease of which the substances can be obtained has resulted in a sharp increase in prescription drug abusers throughout the state. The demand for diverted pharmaceuticals is being met by drug trafficking organizations who traditionally distributed illicit "street" drugs, and are now operating "script rings", as well as through physicians and medical professionals conceivably operating outside of the scope of legitimate medical practice. The diversion and distribution of prescription drugs also fuels other crimes, including health care fraud and burglaries/robberies, to include personal residences and pharmacies.

Enclosed is "A Pharmacist's Guide to Prescription Fraud" published by DEA's office of Diversion Control. Please use this guide as a reference for your business and distribute to your personnel. In addition, the DEA Philadelphia Division has established a new Tip Line. Information on suspected prescription fraud or prescription drug diversion can be submitted **ANONYMOUSLY** via text (see below) or by calling **215-238-5164**.



For any questions regarding this alert or for additional assistance, please contact Field Intelligence Manager Laura Hendrick at 215-861-3258. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

David G. Dongilli
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