

Pharmacy Crimes

Detective Jamie Almond



Background



- ▶ 17 years experience with CMPD
- ▶ 12 years assigned to Vice and Narcotics
- ▶ 4 years solely working Pharmaceutical Diversion
- ▶ Currently assigned to DEA Tactical Diversion Unit
- ▶ Hundreds of interviews and arrests related to Diversion

Robbery

- ▶ Occurred in the northern US for years
- ▶ Noticeable increase in Charlotte during the past two years
- ▶ Pharmacies frequently receive call asking if drugs are in stock prior to robbery
- ▶ Vast majority have involved users
- ▶ Seems to occur in clusters



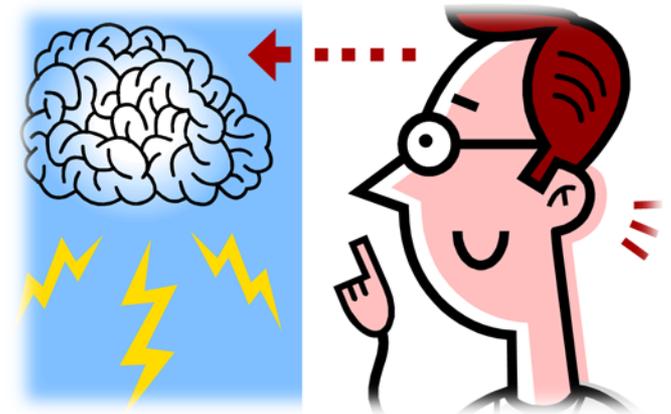
Robbery Prevention



Tell customers that only a limited amount in stock	Get to know your “beat cop”
Place a visible sign indicating drugs are not readily accessible	Install height indicators
Keep CII-IV out of sight of customer	Install multiple panic buttons
Notice and greet every customer	Frequently clean working areas and front door
Watch for suspicious behavior and notify manager (could return later)	Mark all controlled bottles for later identification
<u>Install Surveillance Cameras</u>	Follow RX Patrol updates on Twitter

During/Post Robbery

- ▶ Cooperate
- ▶ Remain calm
- ▶ Activate alarm
- ▶ Lock doors
- ▶ Secure crime scene
- ▶ Remember finite details of encounter and write them down
- ▶ Be a good witness



Case Studies



My Tuan Pham



Details



- ▶ February 19 2013, around 6:00PM, robbed the Walgreens on South Blvd obtained 1700 Alprazolam, 500 Oxycodone.
- ▶ February 20, 2013, around 4:00AM, robbed same Walgreens. Obtained 300 Oxy 15, 100 Oxy 30, 20 Hydro 10/325
- ▶ February 21, 2013 arrested attempting to rob the Harris Teeter at Cotswold

Details



- ▶ \$1500 on his person
- ▶ Appeared someone what impaired during the interview
- ▶ Admitted to involvement
- ▶ Arrested for Robbery

Lorrie Griffin



Details



- ▶ Multiple robberies in a short time period
- ▶ Huntersville, Newton, Gastonia, South Carolina
- ▶ Partnership with RX Patrol
- ▶ RX Patrol made the connection
- ▶ Outside surveillance photo helped in finding suspect
- ▶ Witness ID partial tag/CMPD tag reader

Surveillance Images



Front Door Camera



Pharmacy Register
Camera

Surveillance Images



Front Door Camera



Drop Off Camera?

Partial Tag obtained by witness



Parking Lot Camera

Video Surveillance System

- ▶ Good quality equipment/facial quality
- ▶ Front door, drop off and Pharmacy registers are a must
- ▶ Cameras are not just for internal theft
- ▶ Parking lot cameras are important
- ▶ Proper maintenance and knowledge of system
- ▶ Camera could be your families hope of prosecution



Burglary Prevention



Keep objects away from front of building
Shatter proof glass
Keep dumpster/ladder away from building to limit access to roof
Secure vents and all access to roof
Fortify drive through window
Steel mesh in walls or ceiling for adjoining units
Keep CII-IV in safe

Common Diversion

- ▶ Internal and External



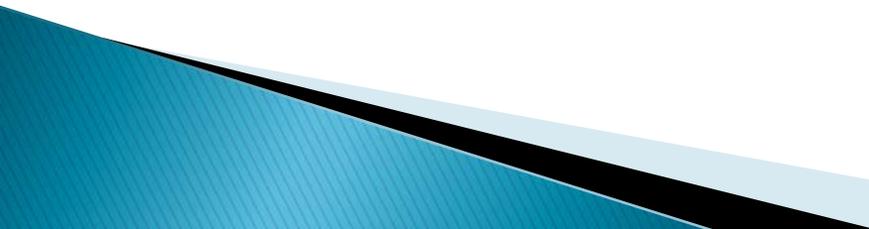
Internal Diversion

- ▶ Theft at delivery
 - ▶ Early refills
 - ▶ Creating false accounts/deceased patients
 - ▶ Skim pills at time of fill
 - ▶ Steal bottles from stock
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External Diversion

- ▶ Doctor shopping
 - ▶ Pharmacy theft (counter jumper)
 - ▶ Photo copy legitimate prescription
 - ▶ Alter legitimate prescription/add refills
 - ▶ Wash legit prescriptions and add drug
 - ▶ Pad theft
 - ▶ Order pads from internet
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Forged Prescriptions

- ▶ Prior to 2012, majority of RX forgeries in Charlotte area were conducted by individuals supporting a habit
 - ▶ Currently vast majority of cases involve “runners” getting prescriptions filled for organized crime groups
 - ▶ Four different rings identified in Charlotte alone
 - ▶ Attempted and ordered 10,000+ prescriptions
- 

Case Studies



Stolen Pad



CHARLOTTE EYE
EAR NOSE & THROAT
ASSOCIATES, P.A.

ALL LOCATIONS:
704-295-3000/800-654-3368

Date: 05-24-2012

FOR Ravien Hinton

ADDRESS 9832 Rams rd. Charlotte NC 28122

Label

PRN

No Refill

May refill 1 2 3 4 5

Oxycodone
15mg
180

1 Tablet oral q4h
for 30 days or
as needed for Pain

W. G. ATLAS

MD

MD

Dispense as written

Substitution permitted

EA No.

FILL TO FORMULATORY

Stolen pad with number changed

JOHN B. GOUCH, D.D.S.
GINGER GOUCH WALFORD, D.D.S.
3616 MICHIGAN AVENUE
CHARLOTTE, NC 28215
(704) 804-3832
NPI# 1043270846

JOHN B. GOUCH, D.D.S.
DEA# AG6295485

GINGER GOUCH WALFORD, D.D.S.
DEA# FW0127185

NAME Sierra Jackson 2-7-9:

ADDRESS 1512 Beech rd, Charlotte NC 28211 DATE 07/26/2012

Rx

Oxycodone 30mg
130

1 tablet q4h po
for 30 days or
PRN for Pain

REFILL 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - PRN

Juan

D.D.S. D.D.S.

PRODUCT SELECTION PERMITTED DISPENSE AS WRITTEN

"VOID" FANTOGRAPH, MICRO-SIGNATURE LINES, EXTENDED INDICATOR STAINS, THERMOCHROMATIC HEAT SENSITIVE BARS, TRUE FOLDED-BINDER WATERMARK, PRINTED ON BACK "SECURITY PRESCRIPTION BLANK", VISIBLE FIBERS AND INVISIBLE FIBERS

Ordered from Internet

DEAF AG6250482
NPI# 1099587636

John B Gouch
Pain Clinic
3616 Michigan ave
Charlotte, NC 28226

Tel: 704-906-9417

Name Olin Davis Age _____
Address _____

SECURITY FEATURES ON BACK Date 06-24-2013

Rx
Oxycodone 1 tablet q8h
30mg po for 30 days
90 or PRN for pain

Label
Refill 0 times PRN **NR**

Product Selection Permitted Dispense as Written

1061321449120

Red Flags



Ink and handwriting differences
Misspelling
Instructions differ from quantity written
New Patient/Cash payment
No CSRS History(or extensive history for DS)
Arriving after 5pm
Standing at counter watching staff
Influx of new people within short time period filling similar drugs from same doctor

What you need to know



Most Commonly Abused

- ▶ Oxycodone HCL 30mg **\$30–\$45**
- ▶ Opana **\$1 to \$1.5mg**
- ▶ Hydrocodone 10/325 or 10/500 **\$5–\$7**
- ▶ Promethazine with Codeine **\$25 per cap**
- ▶ Benzo (Valium, Clonazepam, Xanax) **\$3–\$7**
- ▶ Adderall IR
- ▶ Suboxone
- ▶ SOMA enhance opioids

What can I do?

- ▶ Check patients in CSRS
 - ▶ Verify prescriptions with number from database or search engine
 - ▶ Cross reference phone number
 - ▶ Network with surrounding Pharmacies
 - ▶ Photocopy prescription/patient ID
 - ▶ Get customer in front of camera
 - ▶ Document time at counter
 - ▶ Observe what vehicle they leave in
 - ▶ Contact your Law Enforcement resource
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Resources



- ▶ CSRS – Controlled Substance Reporting System
- ▶ NC Board of Pharmacy
- ▶ NC Medical Board
- ▶ www.RXPatrol.org
- ▶ National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators

Questions

- ▶ CMPD Diversion Unit
- ▶ Detective Jamie Almond
- ▶ 704-408-1159
- ▶ jalmond@cmpd.org
- ▶ Detective Matthew Grimsley
- ▶ 704-617-2750
- ▶ mgrimsley@cmpd.org



Questions Continued

- ▶ Charlotte DEA Office
 - ▶ 704-770-2050
 - ▶ DEA Task Force will be here to answer questions after presentation.
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