

Federal Law for Illegal Rx

- Title 21 United States Code
 - Section 841(a)(1):
 - Except as authorized by this subchapter, it shall be unlawful for any person knowingly or intentionally to manufacture, distribute, or dispense, or possess with intent to manufacture, distribute, or dispense a controlled substance.

Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act (HIPAA) Title 45: Public Law

- 45 C.F.R. 164.512(d) provides that the covered entity (i.e., doctor, pharmacy, etc...) may disclose protected health information (i.e., patient files, prescriptions, etc...) to a health oversight agency (i.e. DEA) for oversight activities authorized by law (the CSA), including investigations; audits; civil, administrative, or criminal investigations; inspections; licensure or disciplinary actions; civil administrative, or criminal proceedings or actions; or other activities necessary for oversight of ...entities subject to government regulatory programs for which health information is necessary for **determining compliance with program standards.**

State Law for Prescriptions: Physician's Responsibility

California Health and Safety Code

Section 11153(a): "Illegal Prescriptions"

- A prescription for a controlled substance shall only be issued for a legitimate medical purpose by an individual practitioner acting in the usual course of his or her professional practice. The responsibility for the proper prescribing and dispensing of controlled substances is upon the prescribing practitioner, but a corresponding responsibility rests with the pharmacist who fills the prescription.
- Any person who knowingly violates this section shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison or in the county jail for not exceeding one year, or by a fine not exceeding \$20,000, or by both a fine and imprisonment.

California Evidence Code § 998

- Concerning the physician-patient privilege:
"There is no privilege under this article in a criminal proceeding."

DEA Diversion Program

- The DEA is the lead Federal law enforcement agency charged with combating drug and chemical diversion.
- Diversion is a workforce of investigators dedicated to the investigation and regulation of legitimately-produced controlled substances and listed chemicals.
- Violations of the Code of Federal Regulations or Controlled Substance Act could result in administrative, civil or criminal penalties.

Tactical Diversion Squad (TDS)

Mission

- The enforcement of the diversion of pharmaceutical Controlled Substances from legitimate use to illegitimate use
- Provide investigative expertise, funding and assistance to DEA units and other law enforcement agencies through liaison and enforcement

TDS Investigations

- Medical Professionals Abuse
 - Drs, PAs, NPs RNs, LVNs, Vets, Dentists, Medical Staff, Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians
- Doctor Shoppers
- "Street" Diversion
- Distribution/Sales of pharmaceuticals by criminal elements
- Internet Investigations

Society's Misconceptions About Pharmaceuticals

- Society has developed the belief that "Pills cure all"
- Teens feel using Rx drugs to get high is "much safer" than street drugs, and because they are prescribed, 1/3 believe Rx painkillers are not dangerous or addictive
- "My parents take it and nothing bad has happened."
- "If it's from the drug store, it must be safe and harmless."

*UNODC Teens and Prescription Drugs February 2008

Prescription Drug Abuse

- Ages 12 and Older: The 2009 estimate of 5.3 million current non-medical users is a 20% increase from 2002
- Ages 12-17: The rate of current non-medical use increased 17% from 2.3% in 2002 to 2.7% in 2009
- Ages 18 to 25 represent the highest percentage of non-medical users
- The non-medical use of prescription drugs continues to have more new users in the past year than any other class of drug.

Source: Office of National Drug Control Policy

PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE

- Teens ages 12-17 have the second-highest annual rates of prescription drug abuse after young adults and are turning away from street drugs and using prescription drugs to get high
- Teens (12-17) in Western and Southeastern states are more likely to abuse prescription pain relievers

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METHODS OF DIVERSION / INVESTIGATIONS

- Home
- Internet / Illegal sales
- Employee theft
- Pharmacy Robbery
- Foreign diversion and smuggling into the U.S.
- Inappropriate prescribing
- Doctor shopping/Fraudulent prescriptions
- Street level investigations



Prescription Drugs from the Medicine chest



"Career" Doctor Shopper

DATE:	DRUG:	QTY:	PHARMACY:	PRESCRIBER:
4/4/08	Oxycodone	100	CVS 9574	W****, William
4/8/08	Oxycodone	40	Med Arts	L****, Irma
4/9/08	Hydrocodone	30	CVS 9192	M****, Nina
4/10/08	Oxycodone	20	Vons 2119	G****, Ali
4/11/08	Oxycodone	90	North Coast	W****, Larry
4/14/08	Percocet	90	Sav-On 6720	S****, Sanjeev
4/17/08	Oxycodone	120	Costco 416	S****, Mary
4/21/08	Oxycodone	60	Rite Aid 5658	M****, Carla
4/22/08	Oxycodone	90	Med Arts	M****, Kevin
4/25/08	Oxycodone	30	Vons 2323	A****, Eva
4/25/08	Oxycodone	30	Super Rx 162	P****, Richard
4/28/08	Oxycodone	24	Rite Aid 5655	P****, Richard
4/29/08	Percocet	60	Sav-On 6720	W****, Larry

Addicted Doctor

Self-Prescribing via bogus RXs / Patients

2/1/2008	Hydrocodone	90	CVS #9181	Mark S.
2/3/2008	Hydrocodone	90	Long's Drug #13	Mark D.
2/5/2008	Hydrocodone	90	North Coast Med.	Lynn S.
2/7/2008	Hydrocodone	90	Long's Drug #13	Marilynne S.
2/8/2008	Hydrocodone	50	Rite Aid	David H.
2/10/2008	Hydrocodone	100	Sav-On #6724	Lynn H.
2/12/2008	Hydrocodone	75	Vons	David M.
2/15/2008	Hydrocodone	100	Rancho Park	Lynn S.
2/16/2008	Hydrocodone	100	Super RX	Lynne S.
2/17/2008	Hydrocodone	90	Long's Drug #13	Marilynne S.
2/19/2008	Hydrocodone	90	CVS #9181	Lynneanne
2/21/2008	Hydrocodone	90	Long's Drug #13	Mark S.
2/22/2008	Hydrocodone	240	Rancho Park	David H.
2/28/2008	Hydrocodone	90	North Coast Med.	Lynn S.
2/29/2008	Hydrocodone	90	Long's Drug #13	Marilynne

TOTAL: 1,475 (Avg. 50.86 pills per day)

Commonly Abused Prescription Drugs

- Opioids/Opiates, prescribed to treat pain: OxyContin, Percocet (oxycodone), Vicodin, Norco (hydrocodone), Methadone.
- Depressants, used to treat anxiety and sleep disorders: Valium, Xanax (benzodiazepines).
- Stimulants, which are prescribed to treat the sleep disorder narcolepsy and attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD): Ritalin, Adderal.

HOW IS OXYCONTIN USED?

- OxyContin can be taken orally, crushed up and snorted, smoked, or shot up intravenously.
- Majority of kids have tried snorting but prefer smoking the substance.
- Small number have gone on to inject intravenously.
 - The jump to Heroin is much easier for these individuals.



ASSOCIATED PARAPHERNALIA



SMOKING OXYCONTIN

- Wet the Pill and Rub off the Outer Layer
- Break the Pill
- Obtain a Sheet of Tin Foil
- Heat the Pill with the Lighter
- Inhale the smoke as the Pill melts



...happening now at high schools, homes
and parks in your community.



HYDROCODONE

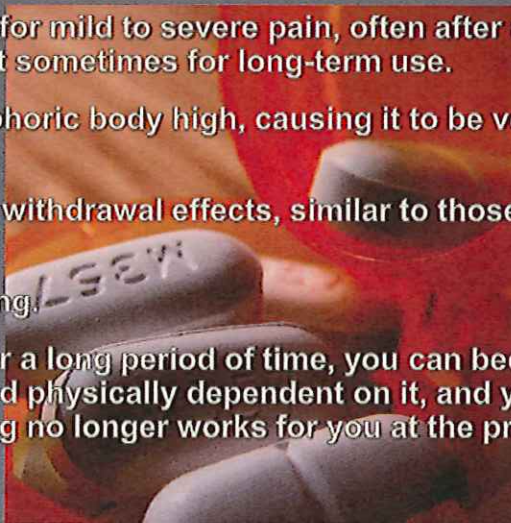
Prescribed for mild to severe pain, often after a surgery, but sometimes for long-term use.

Gives a euphoric body high, causing it to be very addictive.

Has severe withdrawal effects, similar to those of heroin.

Habit forming.

If taken over a long period of time, you can become mentally and physically dependent on it, and you may find the drug no longer works for you at the prescribed dosage.



HYDROCODONE

- Brand Names: Vicodin[®], Lortab[®], Lorcet[®]
- “Cocktail” or “Trinity” used by drug abusers
 - Hydrocodone Soma /carisoprodol, Alprazolam/Xanax[®]
 - HOLY TRINITY– Oxycodone, Soma, Xanax
- Vicodin/hydrocodone second only to marijuana as the “drug of choice” for teens
- In 2004, U.S. consumed 99% of world’s supply of hydrocodone, yet the U.S. makes up only 4.5% of the world’s population

XANAX

Prescribed for anxiety, including anxiety with symptoms of depression, and also for “Nouns (panic) Disorder”

- Not to be taken lightly
- Should not be experimented with
- Potential for abuse and addiction is HIGH
- Must be used under a doctor’s supervision and solely for the condition and duration prescribed to avoid harmful consequences



Cough Medicine

- Abuse occurs when extreme amounts are taken, sometimes as much as 25-50 times the recommended dose.
- The "high" is caused by taking a large amount of dextromethorphan (DXM), a common active ingredient found in many cough medications.
- Medicines containing dextromethorphan are easy to find, affordable for cash-strapped teens, and perfectly legal. And because it's found in over-the-counter medicines, many teens naively assume that DXM can't be dangerous.

* Source: <http://fivemoms.stopmedicineabuse.org>

SLANG AND STREET PRICES

Common Slang you will see in Text Messages and typical price per pill:



Oxycodone – (OxyContin) – \$45 - \$80 for one 80mg tablet or \$25 - \$35 bulk rate.

- OCs, 80s, Beans, Ox, Cookies, Oscars, Dootins. Any two words starting with OC (e.g., Orange Crayons).
- Smoking Oxy – "Chome" or "Choming"



Oxycodone – (Percocet, Percodan) – \$5.00 - \$10.00 ea.

- Percs



Hydrocodone – (Vicodin, Lortab, Lorcet) \$5.00 - \$8.00 ea.

- Vics, Norcos, Watsons



Methadone – \$10.00 for one 10mg tablet or \$5.00 bulk rate.

- Wafers

SLANG AND STREET PRICES



Alprazolam – (Xanax) – \$2.00 – \$5.00ea.
• Zanies, Bars, Z-Bars, Bricks, Ladders



Diazepam – (Valium) \$1.00 – \$3.00 ea.
• Vals



Buprenorphine – (Suboxone, Subtex) – 5.00 ea.
• Subs



Soma - \$3.00 – \$5.00 ea.
• Somes



Adderall – \$5.00 ea.



Seroquel -\$2.00 ea.

Pharmaceutical Controlled Drugs



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Excellent drug education web site: www.justthinktwice.com