

# Medication Management and Safety Advisory Services

## Assessment of Controlled Substance Security and Diversion Mitigation



In 2019, 70,630 drug overdose deaths occurred in the United States. Opioids were involved in 49,860 of those overdose deaths (70.6% of all drug overdose deaths). Hospitals and other health care facilities are often the source of illicit controlled substance supplies in the community through diversion.

The diversion of controlled substances can:

- ✓ Adversely affect patient care
- ✓ Result in morbidity and mortality to the health care worker who diverts
- ✓ Bring about serious financial consequences for hospitals – including the cost of drugs, cost of investigations, potential liability relating to litigation and fines.<sup>2</sup>

### Turn to the experts at JCR

You don't need to face these challenges alone. Joint Commission Resources (JCR) consultants have deep expertise in controlled substance processes and in directing hospitals on how they can make effective and sustainable changes to help you improve your control and diversion identification. In fact, JCR consultants are nationally recognized in this area and frequent speakers at national conferences on their methods and experience. They can advise you on the creation of a framework to help you maintain the safety of your health care workers and the community through the proper handling of controlled substances.

### A plan tailored to your needs

Let JCR consultants advise you on steps to improve your security and assessment of

controlled substance processes. They will work with your hospital or health care facility to evaluate your policies, policy compliance, practices, auditing and diversion monitoring for controlled substances and other medications with the potential for diversion.

Based on your organization's needs, your JCR team – which may include medication safety pharmacist consultants, physician consultants, and nursing consultants – can help you:

- Evaluate current state policies which pertain to documentation of medication prescribing, administration, and controlled substance processes;
- Evaluate controlled substance audits being conducted, diversion monitoring, and data and use of data;
- Evaluate organizational compliance with controlled substance policies;
- Perform tracers and conduct staff interviews to explore current state for controlled substance use and handling; and
- Provide recommendations for enhancing oversight and mitigating opportunities for diversion.

### Engagement Deliverables:

- Report with findings and recommendations for correction relating to gaps identified
- Presentation of findings at the conclusion of the engagement
- Feedback on policies pertaining to controlled substance management
- Tools to support compliance

To learn more, visit [jcrinc.com/consulting](https://www.jcrinc.com/consulting) or call 630.268.7400 and ask to speak to an account manager about Medication Management and Safety advisory services.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/data/statedeaths.html>

<sup>2</sup> Fan M, Tscheng D, Hamilton M et al. Diversion of controlled drugs in hospitals: A scoping review of contributors and safeguards. J Hosp Med 2019; 14(7): 419-428.