DRUGS, DRUGS, & MORE DRUGS

St. Louis Pharmacy Diversion Awareness Conference
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I have no financial relationships to disclose!!
PRESENTATION

OBJECTIVES

1. Discuss R.Ph. duties & responsibilities when presented with an RX for dispensing

2. Discuss the problem with drugs from an individual state perspective
1. A Pharmacist must:
   a. Fill any RX presented w/o question
   b. Use independent judgment on EVERY RX presented
   c. Question only those RXs where a definite allergy or overdose exists
It’s 9:00 AM and five individuals in a row all present prescriptions to your pharmacy in St. Louis for oxycodone 30mg #240 written and dated today by the same doctor. The doctor is from Holt County. These RX are obviously for a legitimate medical purpose and should not be questioned:

a. True
b. False
3. There is a legitimate medical reason for the combination of an opiate, a benzodiazepine, and carisoprodol to be prescribed to one person

a. True
b. False
PHARMACY’S TWO MOST IMPORTANT RULES FOR PRACTICE
ALWAYS, ALWAYS, ALWAYS ACT IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF YOUR PATIENT
ALWAYS ACT IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF YOUR PATIENT

Sometimes, that means saying “NO”
AND RULE #2 IS?
A prescription for a controlled substance to be effective must be issued for a legitimate medical purpose by an individual practitioner acting in the usual course of his 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.
Missouri Regulations

- Although corresponding responsibility is not defined in the state regulations, you are responsible to know and comply with state and federal controlled substances laws and also to insure that subordinates acting under your authority are complying with the law.
System of Checks and Balances

The Last Line of Defense
Corresponding Responsibility

- As a pharmacist, by law, you have a Corresponding Responsibility to **ensure** that prescriptions are legitimate.

- Just because a prescription is presented by a patient or demanded to be filled for a patient by a doctor’s office, you are **not** obligated to fill the prescription!!!
Corresponding Responsibility

- The doctor tells patients to fill their prescriptions at your pharmacy.
- The majority of the controlled substances prescriptions presented, originated from the same doctor.
- Many patients have identical prescriptions, regardless of age, sex or health.
Corresponding Responsibility

- Patients of the same physician, arrive at the pharmacy in groups with prescriptions for the same medications.
- Refills are authorized in advance.
DISPENSING PHARMACISTS NEED TO REMEMBER THAT THEY, NOT THEIR DISTRICT SUPERVISORS, HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED THE “CORRESPONDING RESPONSIBILITY”!!!
What about the “Trinity”

- Is there any legitimate reason to prescribe/dispense an opiate, a benzodiazepine, and carisoprodol to one individual?

- Not if you know their indications and metabolism, there isn’t!
HOW CAN I GET MORE INFO?

- IF THE PATIENT IS NOT FROM YOUR AREA, QUESTION WHY THEY ARE THERE. IT MAY BE LEGITIMATE – BUT…..

- TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS

- USE YOUR STATE PMP– AND THERE’S SOMETHING EXTRA AVAILABLE SOON FOR YOUR USE FROM NABP (I HOPE!)
Status of Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs)

* To view PDMP Contact information, hover the mouse pointer over the state abbreviation

Research is current as of December 23, 2013
These maps only show the data from the Ohio PDMP (OARRS). It does not reflect the large (HUGE) amount of drugs being ferried across state lines from other states, including FL & GA. Ohio law enforcement is still interdicting large quantities of RX meds during traffic stops.
The NABP InterConnect allows users of PMPs in Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin to securely exchange prescription data between the 24 participating states.
FINAL REMINDER-
MOST IMPORTANT RULE FOR PRACTICE

ALWAYS ACT IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF YOUR PATIENT

Sometimes, that means saying “NO”
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.
POST-TEST ?????? #1

1. A Pharmacist must:
   a. Fill any RX presented w/o question
   b. Use independent judgment on EVERY RX presented
   c. Question only those RXs where a definite allergy or overdose exists
It’s 9:00 AM and five individuals in a row all present prescriptions to your pharmacy in St. Louis for oxycodone 30mg #240 written and dated today by the same doctor. The doctor is from Holt County. These RX are obviously for a legitimate medical purpose and should not be questioned:

a. True
b. False
3. There is a legitimate medical reason for the combination of an opiate, a benzodiazepine, and carisoprodol to be prescribed to one person

a. True
b. False
I’M DONE!