

Outreach

- Increase awareness among:
 - ✓The Healthcare industry
 - ✓Other Government Agencies
 - ✓The General Public
- Seek the medical community's input on ways to lessen and prevent diversion of OxyContin®
- Meet with major private and government insurance carriers
- Develop resources for use by other agencies in alerting practitioners to the problem

For more information:
Please contact your nearest DEA office
Or
Visit one of our Internet Web Sites:
www.DEAdiversion.usdoj.gov
Or
www.dea.gov

U.S. Department of Justice
Drug Enforcement Administration



ALERT

Working to Prevent
the Diversion and
Abuse of OxyContin®



Presented as a public service by:

Drug Enforcement Administration
Office of Diversion Control
Washington, D.C. 20537

ALERT

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BACKGROUND

In recent months, concern has grown among federal, state, and local officials about the dramatic increase in the illicit availability and abuse of the prescription drug OxyContin®

(The controlled release form of oxycodone)

In response, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) initiated a comprehensive effort in February 2001 to prevent the diversion of OxyContin® and reverse this trend.

OxyContin® is legitimately used to treat moderate to severe pain. It is fast becoming the drug of choice for pain management with sales reaching more than \$1 billion.



THE PROBLEM

Abusers can easily compromise the controlled release formulation for a powerful morphine-like high.

Common means of OxyContin® diversion

- fraudulent prescriptions
- doctor shopping
- over-prescribing
- pharmacy theft
- organized rings of individuals diverting and selling OxyContin®
- foreign diversion and smuggling into the U.S.

While the diversion and abuse of OxyContin® appear to be concentrated in rural areas of the eastern United States, there are growing problems throughout the nation.

Criminal activities resulting from the abuse of OxyContin® are challenging local law enforcement and health care system resources. Property and other crimes related to OxyContin® addiction have been reported to have increased as much as 75 percent.

DEA's Goal

To ensure that the legitimate users of OxyContin® continue to receive their medication while reducing its diversion and abuse

Enforcement & Intelligence

Focus existing resources on investigations of illicit sales and abuse of OxyContin®

- Investigate Pharmacy thefts with other law enforcement agencies
- Identify large volume purchasers
- Participate in Healthcare Fraud Working Groups
- Work with international organizations

Regulatory & Administrative

- Utilize the full range of DEA's authority to restrict abuser access to OxyContin®
- Work Closely with the FDA urging reformulation to reduce abuse potential

Seek Industry Cooperation

- Encourage Purdue Pharma to develop a balanced market strategy
- Solicit support in providing educational programs