

Red Flag Signs That the Healthcare Professional May Be Diverting Drugs

- Volunteers to care for patients with regular pain medications
- Always volunteers to give medications
- Excessive amount of narcotics signed out to patients
- Always gives IM, PRN, & maximum doses when others do not
- Patients complain of no pain relief from medications given
- Selected patients will only receive sleeping pills and narcotics when this individual is on duty
- Discrepancies on medication administration records
- Narcotics signed off the controlled substance record but not recorded on patient record
- Borrows narcotics from other units
- Has frequent wastage, like spilling drugs or breaking vials
- Unobserved wastage - no co-signature
- Abnormal number of syringes used or missing
- Evidence of broken syringes in employee restroom
- Frequently volunteers for extra shifts and/or other units
- Works in an area where drugs are missing or tampered with

As a healthcare professional, in the interest of patient safety and in the interest of helping a fellow healthcare professional, you should report suspicions to your supervisor and/or to the South Dakota Health Professionals Assistance Program.

