

PharMerica Follow Up Standards of Practice: The Four Ds of Narcotics Webinar

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Thank you for attending our recent webinar on January 10th. Our expert speakers Cassie Faircloth and Andrew Cyr would like to share additional educational content on this important topic.

Follow Up Questions & Answers

Q. Can the witness for destruction be any co-worker or does it have to be another nurse?

- A. Best practice and most states require it be two nurses. Some facilities have a policy on holding the narcotic to end of shift to then witness with another nurse. If a facility does hold a narcotic for wasting, it must be maintained in a double lock system.

Q. How important is shift count practices in reporting any possible issues?

- A. The shift count practices is very vital in the oversight of maintaining correct security and counts of the narcotics. It is one of the foundational principles in narcotic oversight.

Q. Do we need two nurses to verify a new narcotics delivery?

- A. Best practice and most states require 2 nurses to verify narcotics. If you have a shift, typically the night shift where one nurse may be on duty, the facility may be able to partner with the pharmacy to schedule the delivery prior to the end of the shift that would have two nurses available.

Q. What support should we expect from the pharmacy when it comes to the 4 Ds?

- A. We recommend you work with your pharmacy and consultant pharmacist to explore ways they can be engaged in the 4 Ds.

Q. What is the best way to keep pharmacy and narcotic documents, based on what might be asked for in the future? Should they be separate, or kept in a resident chart?

- A. They are not usually stored in the resident charts. One tried and true practice is to maintain records by the month and then reconcile them to one another. From delivery sheets to packing slips to narcotics sheets to drug waste/returns/pharmacy pick up/discharges with resident records all reconciled together.

For more learning opportunities for the long-term care industry, view our [upcoming webinars](#).