



Health Care Providers:

We have a suspect who randomly selects an oncology practice anywhere in the United States. He calls the office after hours and purports himself to be the family member of a cancer patient. This suspect is knowledgeable about cancer and the medications associated with the disease. He is also very polite. He has been successful hundreds of times with this scam and has also been arrested numerous times. He has been convicted and served time in State Prison four times. He is currently out of prison and doing the same scam to fraudulently obtain his medications. His story is usually a variation of the following:

“My mom is a patient of your partner, Dr. XX, and she has XX cancer. Your partner prescribed Oxycontin earlier this week and it is too strong for my mom. We are out of town in Georgia and she is experiencing XX side effects from the Oxycontin. Would you please call her in just about 60 or 90 Lortab 10 mg tablets to get us through until we can get back home? She is really sick and in pain and needs something.”

The doctor will then call the pharmacy provided to him by the suspect. The pharmacist will fill it because a real doctor is calling in the medication. The physician often discovers the fraud during business hours the next day and is often irate.

Our concern is for the next legitimate patient of that physician. Doctors, who have been taken advantage of, may be reluctant to effectively prescribe controlled substances for legitimate patients who may be out of town. Please take time to educate as many healthcare professionals and office staff as possible to be alert to this scam.

Sincerely,

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