



## CNA HealthPro

### FAQs – Patient Misuse of Dentist’s Drug License

**Q.** I recently received a call from a local pharmacy regarding a patient I last saw about a year ago. The pharmacist inquired about a recent prescription for narcotics that had been phoned in using my DEA number, purportedly by one of my staff. It became apparent during the conversation that it had been the patient herself who called in the prescription, as well as others attributed to area physicians. I am concerned about the potential consequences I may confront because this patient used my personal information to obtain controlled substances. Is there anything I can do at this point to minimize my risk?

**A.** The patient committed a crime when she fraudulently used your DEA and dental license numbers to obtain prescription medication. It is important that you thoroughly document her actions in order to establish a defensible position in anticipation of any potential investigation.

Ask the pharmacy to send you a written copy of the findings as its inquiry pertains to you. If the pharmacy has not already involved your local police department, contact the department and file a complaint outlining the fraud and misrepresentation. Be sure to obtain a copy of the police report.

Regardless of whether the patient is charged or punished, taking these actions will assist you in demonstrating and documenting that neither you nor your staff assisted the patient in the commission of the crime or violated any statutes or administrative codes with respect to prescribing drugs.

Based on these facts, it would be unlikely that an adverse action would be taken against you, your dental license, or your DEA permit as a result of the patient’s actions.

Finally, it would be prudent to consider formally terminating your dentist-patient relationship by sending the patient a written notification of the termination.

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