

### **Pill Mills – Part III: Processing**

While processing prescriptions, other red flags will present themselves. Multiplicity is again a factor, potentially in prescription number, prescribers, and pharmacies involved. Also potentially at play are geography, your pharmacy's dispensing statistics, and much more. Let's look at some of the most common processing flags:

Multiple **identical prescriptions** from the same prescriber, indicating a **lack of individual dosing**.

Consumers receive the SAME controlled substance from several **different prescribers**.

Consumers often seek **early refills**.

You rely only on the prescriber's representation that the prescriptions are legitimate and **fail to verify** details with the consumer.

Prescribed drugs are **inconsistent** with the prescriber's area of practice (**for example: fentanyl prescribed by a dentist.**)

The prescriber is located a **significant distance** from your pharmacy.

The consumer's address is a **significant distance** from your pharmacy, and/or from the prescriber's office.

The prescription monitoring program system shows that consumers are obtaining prescriptions for the **same drugs** from **multiple prescribers**.

The prescription monitoring program system may also show that consumers are filling prescriptions for the **same drugs** at **multiple pharmacies**.

**Dangerous** drugs or **over-the-counter** products, including **multi-vitamins** or **laxatives**, are added to controlled substance prescriptions.

Prescriptions are commonly for the **highest strength** of the drug, and/or for **large quantities**.

The prescriptions contain **nonspecific** or **no diagnoses**.

If you contact the prescriber regarding a suspicious-looking prescription, he or she is **unconcerned** about your apprehensions, or **unwilling** to provide more information.

The number of controlled substances your pharmacy dispenses has **significantly increased**.

Your pharmacy **prepackages controlled substances** in the **same quantity** and **strength**.