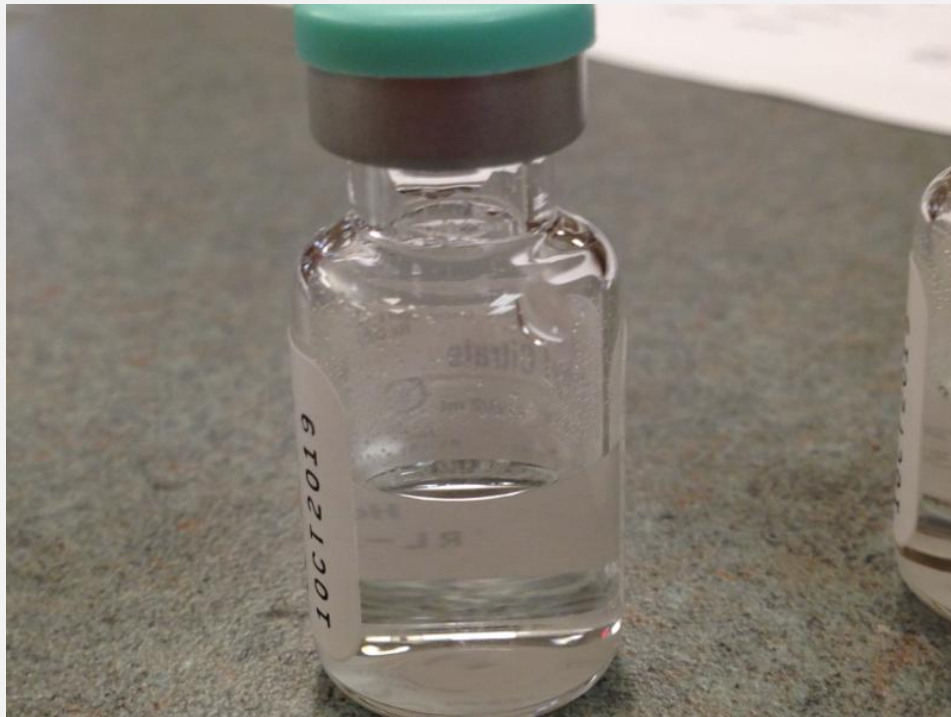




Tuesday Talks with John



When something just doesn't look right...

If you're in an airport and see an unattended suitcase, you might find that suspicious and alert an airport employee or TSA agent. If you're traveling on SEPTA subway in Philadelphia, you may hear overhead announcements telling you to, "Look up, speak up" and report suspicious activity on public transportation. Paying attention to our environment and what's going on around us helps to keep us all safe! So why should that be any different when it comes to the drugs we use on our patients?

One of my clients recently reached out to me to report strange looking fentanyl. You can see in the above image how there are little droplets of precipitate on the inside of the vial. I've never seen this before. Hypothetically, there shouldn't be precipitate forming. I instructed the nurse manager to contact the manufacturer, and in the meantime, quarantine this lot of fentanyl and all affected vials. Pfizer was contacted and reported back that the

formation of the droplets is likely due to surface tension between the solution and the inside of the glass vial.

I was relieved to hear that this seemingly strange occurrence had a simple explanation. But the nurse manager and staff reacted appropriately by quarantining the affected vials of fentanyl. I have seen manners of diversion or drug tampering that resulted in a similar looking vial.

If you feel that any vial or medication is defective or has been tampered with, follow these steps to report and ensure patient safety!

1. Remove all potentially affected drug from stock before it's administered to another patient
2. Take pictures of all the affected medication
3. Call the consultant pharmacist and text or email pictures of the affected drug
4. If you and the consultant pharmacist feel that this is a manufacturing defect, contact your wholesaler and possibly the drug manufacturer
5. Depending on the severity of the situation, it may be necessary to contact the FDA to notify them of potential need for recall

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Tuesday Talks with John will now be delivered to your inbox weekly.

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