

The appearance is that the thieves became “spooked” and just abandoned the pharmaceutical drugs and narcotics. The reality is that by the time the recovered drugs are tested for authenticity, the real drugs and narcotics are long gone. (Remember my Authentix example in Chapter 4? This is a perfect application of its markers and services.)

The real danger is that the recovered drugs and narcotics do not go through a strenuous testing for authenticity. People relying on these medicines could be harmed if they take the counterfeit drugs and narcotics. The pharmaceutical manufacturers are also harmed because the real drugs and narcotics will show up somewhere, either back into the forward supply chain or on the street corners. The loss of revenue can be far exceeded by the negative impact on brand value if something bad happens to patients as a result of the theft.

My anonymous law enforcement official gave me another scenario. The organized crime groups he refers to are duplicating trucks to look virtually identical to those of UPS, FedEx, and other carriers. These fake trucks have been cited going back and forth across the border from Texas and Arizona, transporting drugs, guns, and money. These trucks show up for pickups at the pharmaceutical drug manufacturing site on time, and leave with the pharmaceutical drug and narcotics shipments. The drivers have uniforms identical to the real ones. The drivers know the time, place, destination, and all other pertinent shipment information. The real pickup truck is somehow delayed. When it shows up, the pharmaceutical manufacturer knows that the theft just took place. These organized crime groups buy used trucks from the trucking companies through a broker, and then repaint them to look just like the originals. Talk about sophisticated theft with inside information!

ONE BARRIER BETWEEN PATIENTS AND ADULTERATED AND COUNTERFEIT DRUGS: NURSES

As pharmaceutical drug companies increase the number and types of drugs for patients, nurses have a growing role with patient safety. One leading doctor told me that nurses have become the front line for pharmaceutical drug safety in hospitals and medical facilities. I know that when I was in the hospital recovery room after my neck surgery, it was always the nurses testing my pain and administering my drugs. Nurses can sense adverse