

effects quickly, and can take appropriate action when they do occur. There is a growing need for “drug safety nurses.” A quick check of nursing positions in demand showed drug safety nurses close to the top of the list.

There is another reason that nurses are becoming the front line for pharmaceutical drug safety in hospitals and medical facilities. Many hospitals and medical facilities have outsourced their pharmaceutical drug supply deliveries. These deliveries at times come right into the hospital and to the nurses’ station on selected floors. The drugs are placed into the final inventory location where nurses get the drugs for their patients. With experience, nurses can potentially detect counterfeit or adulterated drugs before they are administered. They can also detect adverse effects immediately after counterfeit or adulterated drugs are administered. Any adverse reporting of the “proscribed drugs” starts with the nurse.

Another doctor, this one in a heart hospital, told me that nurses are relied on very heavily for reporting purposes for pharmaceutical drugs that are in clinical trials. I can believe this, because nurses have to have the trifecta of skills: knowledge of the disease being treated, knowledge of the pharmaceutical drug being administered, and the ability to communicate with the patient in “normal everyday language.”

The bottom line is that nurses need several items to do their job with pharmaceutical drugs. First, they need a prescription or pharmaceutical drug order from a doctor. They also need the correct dosage delivered to them by the pharmacist (or picked up at the nurses’ station). Nurses also need access to the correct drug information. This information is usually provided by the pharmacist. Additionally, nurses need training on the proper technique by which to administer the pharmaceutical drugs and how to report adverse situations. From compounded drugs to pharmaceutical drugs, nurses need these items to effectively fill their frontline drug quality and drug security roles.

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## **SUMMARY—TITLE I: COMPOUNDING QUALITY ACT**

Title I of the Drug Quality and Security Act of 2013 is called the Compounding Quality Act. It is a well-put-together law, intended to close gaps left over from the FDA Modernization Act of 1997 and address the issues responsible for the NECC fungal meningitis outbreak in 2012.