



## Comsats University Islamabad, Lahore Campus

(Defence Road, Off Raiwind Road, Lahore)

### Assignment <2> – Spring 2024

Course Title	Professional Practices in IT	Course Code	CSC110		Credit Hours	3(2,1)	
Instructor (s)	Khaqan Zaheer	Program Name	BSSE				
Semester	6 <sup>th</sup>	Batch	FA21	Section	A	Date	April 18, 2024
Due Date	April 22, 2024	Maximum Marks	10				
Student Name:	Mr. Aoun Haider	Reg No.	FA21-BSE-133				
<b>Important Instructions/Guidelines:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Read the questions carefully.</li><li>2. Copied assignment will not be accepted.</li><li>3. Attempt all questions.</li><li>4. Do not copy from any source.</li><li>5. Submit file <b>FA21_BSE_XYZ.docx</b>.</li><li>6. Late Submission will not be entertained.</li></ol>							

#### Question No 1.

**CLO: <01>; Bloom Taxonomy Level: <Understanding>**

Real-Life Experiences

The Kansas City Pharmacist

In August 2001, Robert Courtney, a Kansas City Pharmacist was indicted on 20 felony counts of products tampering, drug adulteration, and drug misbranding. Courtney illegally diluted Gemzar and other expensive chemotherapy drugs to make money.

What was more alarming was the fact that he had hundreds of cancer patients most of them relying on chemotherapy treatments for survival. According to the FBI, at least one patient who received the diluted drugs died.

Courtney was caught when a representative of Eli Lilly and Co., the pharmaceutical company that manufactures Gemzar, became suspicious from records that indicated that a Kansas City doctor was receiving much more Gemzar Courtney's pharmacy than the actual amount of Gemzar the pharmacy was purchasing from the manufacturer.

After the doctor was notified and the drug was tested, US federal agents were then informed. It was found that Courtney was selling up to three times the number of drugs he was purchasing from the drug manufacturer.

#### 1. What crime did Robert Courtney commit?

Robert Courtney committed several crimes related to tampering with medications and putting people's lives at risk. He diluted expensive chemotherapy drugs, including Gemzar, which were crucial for cancer patients undergoing treatment. By diluting these drugs, he not only compromised their effectiveness but also endangered the lives of patients who relied on them for survival. This act of diluting medications constitutes product tampering, drug adulteration, and drug misbranding, which are serious offenses under the law.

Furthermore, Courtney's actions were not just a matter of negligence or mistake but a deliberate scheme to make money at the expense of patients' health and well-being. He knowingly altered the medications for financial gain, betraying the trust placed in him as a pharmacist and healthcare provider. His crimes demonstrate a callous disregard for the welfare of vulnerable individuals battling a life-threatening illness, making his actions not only criminal but morally reprehensible.

## **2. Was it proper to arrest Robert Courtney? Why or why not?**

Yes, it was absolutely proper to arrest Robert Courtney given the seriousness of his crimes and the potential harm he caused to numerous individuals. As a pharmacist, Courtney had a duty to ensure the safety and well-being of his patients. However, he betrayed this trust by tampering with vital medications, including chemotherapy drugs, which are crucial for cancer patients undergoing treatment. Diluting these medications compromised their effectiveness and put patients' lives at risk. By knowingly engaging in such illegal activities for financial gain, Courtney violated not only professional ethics but also the law. Arresting him was necessary to hold him accountable for his actions, prevent further harm to patients, and uphold the integrity of the healthcare system.

## **3. Do you think Robert Courtney was responsible for the assumed death?**

While it cannot be definitively stated without further investigation and evidence, there is a strong likelihood that Robert Courtney bears responsibility for the assumed death of a patient who received the diluted drugs. Diluting chemotherapy drugs significantly reduces their efficacy in combating cancer, which can have devastating consequences for patients already battling a life-threatening illness. If it is determined that the patient's death resulted from receiving diluted medications supplied by Courtney, then he would indeed be responsible for that death. His actions directly contributed to the patient receiving inadequate treatment, ultimately leading to the loss of life. Therefore, there is a compelling case to hold Robert Courtney accountable for any fatalities resulting from his criminal conduct.