

17 Insider Threat Simulation Log Day 10: No Logging or Disposal Oversight

Date of Entry: 6/25/2025

Observer: Michael Warner

Location: Main Work Area

Classification: Internal Security Simulation

Incident Overview

On the tenth day of my insider threat simulation, I observed a critical gap in pharmaceutical disposal accountability. Within the main pharmacy workspace, there is a large, trash can-sized bin designated for pill disposal. Throughout the day, employees discard various medications—often in loose form—directly into the bin.

What stands out is that no log or record is maintained regarding what medications are being discarded, by whom, or in what quantities. There is no formal supervision or witness verification during these disposals, and the bin itself is unsecured and unlocked, though it is centrally located in a shared work area.

While this risk may not appear overtly technical, the lack of chain-of-custody procedures and documentation introduces regulatory, insider threat, and diversion risks.

Risk Assessment

This uncontrolled disposal process introduces several risks:

- No chain of custody for discarded controlled substances
- No verification or logging of what was disposed, when, or by whom
- Potential for diversion of medications for personal use or illicit resale
- Lack of oversight may violate pharmacy and DEA handling standards
- Inability to perform audits or investigate discrepancies in Inventory

Speculative Insider Perspective

As a malicious insider, I could:

- Recover loose pills from the bin at shift end with minimal scrutiny
- Swap legitimate medication with expired or counterfeit pills during disposal
- Use the absence of logs to discard medication inappropriately without detection
- Manipulate waste levels to hide discrepancies in dispensing or inventory records

Because there's no accountability built into this system, even well-intentioned employees are left vulnerable to suspicion in the event of a diversion or audit.

Initial Thoughts & Actions

No interaction was made with the disposal bin beyond passive observation. I witnessed multiple disposal events throughout the day but saw no employee maintain a log, request a witness, or consult any disposal record.

The process appears to operate on peer-to-peer trust without formal checks or documentation.

Recommendations (Low-Impact Suggestions)

- Implement a disposal logging system, either manual or digital, tracking date, drug name, quantity, and employee initials
- Assign designated disposal witnesses or require dual verification
- Replace the open bin with a locked pharmaceutical waste container
- Add camera coverage to the disposal area (without targeting staff privacy)
- Conduct routine audits comparing waste logs with dispensing/inventory totals

Severity Rating

Moderate to High — The lack of oversight in pharmaceutical disposal creates opportunity for insider diversion and regulatory violations, particularly where controlled substances are involved.

- End of Entry