

Why do Hospital Pharmacies use Sterile, Tamper Evident Port Seals on IV Containers and Drug Vials?

Winfield laboratories surveyed attendees at both the **2009 American Society of Health System Pharmacists** (ASHP) Summer Meeting in Chicago and the **2009 Pharmacy Purchasing Network Conference** (PPN), held in Las Vegas.

While not undertaken as a scientific survey, we believe that this collection of almost 200 responses is indicative of current hospital pharmacy practices in the use of sterile, tamper evident port seals.

- *Over 90% of the attendees surveyed reported that they currently use sterile, tamper evident port seals as part of their in-hospital pharmacy protocol, when compounding and/or dispensing drugs.*

The number one reason given by respondents for the use of sterile, tamper evident, port/closure seals was to:

- **Verify that drugs (and their containers; bag, vial, tube, etc.) had been fully processed through the hospital pharmacy before being delivered to the patient care floor (including correct dosing, patient labeling and billing/charge information).**

*It was often noted that this use of sterile, tamper evident, SecurSeal® IV Seals is particularly helpful in the safe and efficient management of **USP <797>** sterile drug compounding - including being an important added precaution against inadvertent double dosing of an IV bag.*

Other responses fell into one of three general categories, listed below in the order of *most to least* frequent mentioned.

- The use of sterile, tamper evident IV and vial port seals of different colors to identify different types of drug that require special handling or management. For example, putting **RED** seals on all narcotics and **YELLOW** seals on all chemotherapy drugs that leave the hospital pharmacy for the patient care areas.
- Sterile, tamper evident, port/closure seals are used to confirm the integrity of unopened / unused drugs that are ordered and sent to the patient area. This is also important if the drug is not administered and returned to the hospital pharmacy – e.g., change in Doctor's orders, patient discharge, etc.
- Different color seals are used to help in the management of pharmacy inventory. For example, a different color sterile, tamper evident port seal is used to designate the day of the week that a drug / container was compounded / processed.

Winfield Lab's entire line of SecurSeal® IV and Vial seals is USP <797> compliant

- SecurSeal® IV seals may be used in the Clean Room – 'under the hood'
- The SecurSeal® clear plastic dispenser box is IPA 'wipe-down' compatible and the product has zero paper & zero cardboard (even the box label is vinyl – *not* paper)!
- SecurSeal® IV seals are available through drug wholesalers in 6 styles and 7 bright foil colors
- For more information, free samples or to order, please call Winfield Labs at 800+527-4616