



NIBRS Coding Scenarios

Loss of Prescription Drugs

Scenario #1: A gentleman went to refill his prescription of Hydrocodone only to find out it was refilled and picked up by someone else. Upon investigation, it was determined that his step-daughter had refilled the prescription with the intent of selling the Hydrocodone. The local agency wanted to code this as a Larceny.

Scenario #1 Coding: This incident would be coded as a 26A (Fraud) – not a Larceny. Remember, fraud is a “theft by deception” or “theft of services”. The property segment for the Fraud would be encoded as follows: Type of Property Loss = 7-Stolen; Property Description = 10-Drugs; Value of Property = cost of the prescription. The agency knows who has the drugs, so the offense of 35A (Drug/Narcotic Violations) would be added. She had sold the drugs therefore the property segment of this offense would be: Loss Type = N-Not Seized and Drug Type = H-Other Narcotics.

Scenario #2: A vehicle was broken into and the owner’s prescription of pain killers was stolen. The local agency coded this as a larceny and also a drug offense.

Scenario #2 Coding: This incident would be coded to 23F (Theft from Motor Vehicle) as the only offense. Do not code a 35A (Drug/Narcotic Violation) as you do not have a “person” who has the drugs. When and if the person is found, it would be a separate incident of 35A. Then you would be able to clear the arrest on the 23F incident. The property segment for the Larceny would be encoded as follows: Type of Property Loss = 7-Stolen; Property Description = 10-Drugs; Value of Property = cost of the prescription.

Scenario #3: A pharmacist pockets a few pain killers whenever he refills customer’s prescriptions. This was coded as a Larceny-Theft from Building.

Scenario #3 Coding: This incident would be coded as 270 (Embezzlement). The pharmacist stole merchandise from his employer. The Type of Property Loss would show a 7-Stolen and you would report 10-drugs in the Property Description with a Value of Property being the cost of the drugs taken. The pharmacist had the drugs, therefore you would add the offense of 35A (Drug/Narcotic Violations).

Reference: NIBRS Volume 1: Data Collection Guidelines (blue cover), Drug/Narcotic Violations Definition Pages 25-26; Embezzlement Definition Page 26; and Theft From Motor Vehicle Definition Page 30.



Note that the preceding gives general examples. It is not meant to be all inclusive. Coding is based on individual case circumstances. Please direct NIBRS questions to:

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