The anesthesia department did not have a standardized process to verify the accuracy of controlled substance waste at the end of an anesthetic. Organization administration in agreement with regulatory agencies mandated increased controlled substance sampling within the surgery department. This was an effort to deter diversion and allow for reconciliation of controlled substances from issuance to administration and/or waste.

Controlled substances are utilized frequently during the administration of anesthesia. These controlled substances must be accounted for at all times and their administration and/or waste must match exactly to the amount dispensed from the pharmacy. The aim of the project was to allow for the proper waste of controlled substances while simultaneously providing the specimens to pharmacy for verification. The quality improvement project was set in a critical access hospital in the Texas Hill Country. Participants included anesthesia providers, pharmacy staff, and perioperative staff.

This interdisciplinary collaborative project developed and implemented a process to document the waste of controlled substances within the anesthesia department and provided the specimen to pharmacy for verification via spectrometry. Anesthesia providers were able to quickly document waste and deposit a specimen in the anesthesia workroom.

Over six weeks the implemented process and tool allowed for proper waste of controlled substances and provided pharmacy with 13 specimens to verify via spectrometry. The tool increased the percentage of controlled substance specimens for verification by 116.67%. Anesthesia providers utilized the verification tool in 96.67% of available controlled substance waste transactions.

Implementation of the waste and verification tool increased the percentage of controlled substances available for verification by pharmacy. The tool was utilized in most anesthesia controlled substance waste transactions. The process and tool allowed the pharmacy to efficiently reconcile controlled substances from issuance to administration and/or waste.