



Date: Jan. 17, 2017
To: Pennsylvania Pharmacists

REGARDING: Clarification to 12/28/16 Drug Take-Back Program Expansion for Pharmacies

You may have read a recent memo from Secretary Gary Tennis about the opioid epidemic in Pennsylvania and ways that pharmacists could help.

Since Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) regulations now allow retail pharmacies, among others, to collect both controlled and non-controlled pharmaceutical drugs from ultimate users by voluntarily administering mail-back programs and/or maintaining collection receptacles, we ask your pharmacy to consider purchasing and maintaining a collection receptacle (or) utilizing another DEA-approved drug disposal method such as supplying drug deactivation packets. By participating in a drug take-back program, your pharmacy can help play a vital role in protecting the health of the community you serve.

If you are interested in purchasing a drug disposal option, there are two possibilities DDAP is aware of, among others that may be appropriate for your facility:

- **MedSafe** - The Sharps Compliance Corp. and MedReturn, LLC have joined forces to launch a program called MedSafe™ (<http://www.sharpsinc.com/medsafe/>). Pharmacies can purchase MedSafe, a collection receptacle with a removable prepaid ship back inner liner manufactured by MedReturn, LLC. The medications collected in that receptacle are then mailed in the prepaid inner liner back to Sharps Compliance, Inc. for disposal via incineration.
- Drug deactivation products such as:
 - Deterra Drug Deactivation Kit - <http://deterrasystem.com/>
 - Disposa-Script - <http://hh-solutions.com/disposascript/>

The Department recommends that pharmacies:

- Go to the DEA website at https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/, click “Register for Disposal of Controlled Substances” and then proceed to modify eligible DEA registration to collect pharmaceutical controlled substances from ultimate users and purchase your own take-back box (i.e. MedSafe) that can be utilized by your customers
- or
- Stock and/or supply drug deactivation packets such as the Deterra Drug Deactivation System or Disposa-Script for your customer’s own personal use

If you decide to purchase and maintain your own take-back box at your location, please contact George Reitz, drug and alcohol prevention program analyst with DDAP, at 717-736-7469 so he can add your collection site to the DDAP website listing at www.ddap.pa.gov.

Thank you in advance for your help. Together, we can reduce the potential misuse and abuse of prescription medicines.