

Protecting Water Resources in Rural New York Through Drug Take-Back *Engaging Medical Providers & Patients*

What: Residents, patients, and providers need a quick and easy solution to protect the environment and public health. We will work as a team to dispose of leftover medications in safe, convenient take-back containers at pharmacies and via mail-back envelopes.



Who: Drug take-back experts at the Product Stewardship Institute (PSI) and New York Product Stewardship Council (NYPSC) in collaboration with rural New York State (NYS) partners, including hospital pharmacies, medical providers, patients, solid waste and wastewater managers, departments of health, law enforcement, and drug abuse prevention advocates.

Why: Unwanted/expired drugs pose a danger to water resources when improperly disposed, and can lead to drug abuse or accidental poisonings when stored in the home.

We need your help to reduce these risks!

How: PSI and NYPSC will work with our partners to take **four easy steps**.

1. **Set up collection kiosks and offer mail-back envelopes for leftover medications in hospital pharmacies** to increase the quantity of controlled and non-controlled substances collected;
2. **Increase awareness** among medical professionals, hospital staff, and patients about the risks associated with improper management of unwanted/expired household medications, and how best to dispose of them;
3. **Identify best practices for educating** medical care providers, hospital staff, and patients; and
4. **Develop online educational Toolkit** that informs medical care providers of their role in educating patients about importance of safe drug disposal, and equips them with tools to do so.

Where: Four to six hospital pharmacies that serve predominantly NYS rural communities with populations of 5,500 or fewer.

When: Oct. 1, 2017 – Sept. 30, 2018. Take-back and mail-back pilots will run for 6 months beginning in February 2018.

*Product Stewardship Institute, Inc. • 29 Stanhope Street • 3rd Floor • Boston, MA 02116
Telephone: (617) 236-4855 • Fax: (617) 236-4766 • www.productstewardship.us*

Partner Roles	
Advisory Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Facilitate collaboration with local stakeholders; 2) Review and strengthen awareness surveys; 3) Promote the program and identify best outreach practices in hospitals; and 4) Review and promote online educational Toolkit.
Hospitals	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Operate take-back programs at pharmacies and offer mail-back envelopes to patients (paid for by project); 2) Help develop and distribute an awareness survey to hospital staff and the patient population; 3) Encourage patients to return unwanted medicines to take-back receptacles using educational materials provided; and 4) Provide Project Team with feedback about the pilots and recommendations for the future.
PSI + NYPSC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Provide collection boxes, mailing envelopes, and shipping /destruction services for the pilot period; 2) Assist pharmacies to update DEA registration for authorization to collect controlled substances; 3) Develop outreach materials such as fliers, pharmacy bags with messaging, press releases, and posters; 4) Develop online educational Toolkit with information, strategies, and resources for medical providers; 5) Host a free national webinar to share project results and promote the Toolkit; and 6) Provide 1 year of free PSI membership or partnership services to participating local governments, organizations, hospitals, law enforcement, and other stakeholders working in the project target area.



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