Medicine Return Initiatives in Washington State

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“Get the Old Meds Out” Workshop” U. WI Extension. May 19, 2010
For today... 

- Quick overview of medicine return programs in Washington State
- WA’s Secure Medicine Return Bill
- Moving forward on producer responsibility for unwanted medicines: key issues & stakeholders
- Our next steps
AP: Drugs found in drinking water

OxyContin abuse in region soars

Hormonal chemicals may be imperiling fish

Pain pills a rising cause of death

Prescription drug overdoses are up 56% since 1997

COMMON ABUSED DRUGS

- Common brand names
  - Hydrocodone, Vicodin, Lortab
  - Codeine
  - Acetaminophen

Medical indications
- Pain, asthma, cough suppressant
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- Pain, asthma, cough suppressant

Drugs in water causing troubling problems to fish, wildlife

OUTPACING METH | The illicit use of the painkiller, especially among teens, has driven up its street price, which has made pharmacies robbery targets.
Some WA statistics…

• More deaths due to drug overdoses than car accidents

• 15% of 10th graders who abused prescription pain relievers got them from their own home or someone else’s home without permission

• Accidental poisonings up 390% since 1990 – 85% poisoning deaths involve medications

• Pharmaceutical compounds detected in Columbia River water and sediments, in Puget Sound, and in WA wastewater treatment plant effluent
Community Drug Take-Back Programs in WA

- Clark County – since 2003, law enforcement + retail pharmacy sites
- Group Health Cooperative – since 2006, 25 clinical pharmacies across state
- Bartell Drugs – since 2006, 12 retail pharmacies in Western WA, now 12+
- Growing number of law enforcement drop-off programs and collection events
Pharmacy Collection

high customer convenience
secure & documented operation
environmentally protective disposal
Pharmacy Bin Signs

Medication Disposal Unit

What to do:
1. Gather your unwanted medications and other approved items (see list). Leave items in the original containers. Mark out any personal information if you wish.
2. Bring items to this pharmacy. Deposit into this medication disposal unit.

What items can you return for safe disposal?

Return YES
- Medication: prescription and over-the-counter
- Medication samples
- Veterinary medications
- Vitamins
- Medicated ointments/lotions
- Inhalers
- Liquid medication in glass or leak-proof containers

Do not return NO
- Needles
- Thermometers
- IV bags
- Bloody or infectious waste
- Personal care products
- Controlled substances (narcotics)
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Empty containers
- Business waste
- Aerosol cans

For questions, please contact your pharmacist.
Law Enforcement Collection legally accepts Controlled Substances.

Secure drop box at Western Washington police station.
Snohomish County Partnership
Secure Medicine Disposal

Get Unwanted Meds OUT...
of your homes, of your water, of the reach of a child

Partner with law enforcement in Snohomish County to securely dispose of your unwanted prescription medicines.

FREE disposal. Call 425-388-3199 for details.

Keeping unused, unwanted and expired prescription drugs in your home poses a risk to you, your family and your community. Disposed of improperly, these drugs can still be obtained for illegal use and some will contaminate our waters. To provide you with an easy, secure and responsible way to properly and securely dispose of these drugs, law enforcement agencies and other partners have established prescription drug drop-off locations throughout Snohomish County.

How to use the program:

✔️ All prescription drugs, including narcotic pain killers and prescribed “controlled substances”: Take to any law enforcement agency in Snohomish County (listed at www.snoco.org, search “pharmaceuticals”).

✔️ All medications, including over the counter, prescription drugs, vitamins, medications for pets, etc. (EXCEPT narcotic pain killers and prescribed “controlled substances”): Take to pharmacy-based drop-off locations listed at www.medicinereturn.com.

No questions will be asked, though your zip code will be recorded for research purposes. You may be offered the chance to fill out an anonymous survey.

We need a sustainable source of funding to ensure that everyone in our community and state has on-going access to secure and effective medicine disposal locations. For more information, visit www.medicinereturn.com or contact your state legislator.

✔️ 28 law enforcement sites
✔️ 5 pharmacy sites
THOUSANDS OF PRESCRIPTIONS DROPPED OFF AT ONE-DAY EVENT

Vashon's first-ever "Operation Medicine Cabinet," where people could drop off unwanted and expired medications to be properly disposed of, was a huge success, according to organizers. The four-hour event at Vashon's Village Green resulted in the collection of more than 10,000 pills — from antidepressants and painkillers to vitamins and herbal supplements. Organizers said Islanders responded so positively that they hope to hold another medication dropoff day later this year.
Resources from WA

- www.medicinereturn.com
- PH:ARM pilot report, Dec 2009
- WA and OR households survey
- Handouts & FAQs from legislative work
WA’s Secure Medicine Return Bill

Rep. Dawn Morrell
2SHB 1165 / 2SSB 5279
www.leg.wa.gov

First introduced in 2008
In 2009 and 2010, coalition efforts to pass the bills Successfully passed through policy and budget committees in both houses Blocked at floor votes
2010 Secure Medicine Return Bill Overview

• Requires that producers of medicines sold in WA finance and provide a statewide program
• For all OTC & prescription meds from residential sources
• State Board of Pharmacy oversight
• Collection in every county and, at a minimum, in every city > 10,000 people
• Allows for any legal collection method, or combination of, methods
• Voluntary participation by law enforcement, pharmacies, and other potential legal collectors
• Requires safe environmental disposal of collected medicines
• Annual reporting & community feedback
Key Issues & Stakeholders on Secure Medicine Return
Next Steps

- Stakeholder outreach throughout 2010
- Engage communities & increase public awareness
- Support Federal Bill to amend CSA (H.R. 1191)
- Introduce new WA Bill in 2011 session
Contact Info & Resources

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Washington Medicine Return Website
www.medicinereturn.com

Northwest Product Stewardship Council
www.productstewardship.net
Responsible Approach = Hazardous Waste Disposal

Most pharmaceuticals designate as hazardous waste (federal law) or dangerous waste (WA law)

Haz waste incineration provides:

- Continuous emissions monitoring
- Consistent High Temperature
- Stringent emission controls
- Ash disposed in haz waste landfill
- Affordable WA state govt/non-profit contract