NCPA Dispose My Meds and the TakeAway Environmental Return System
NCPA Dispose My Meds

• Began in 2009 with information and resources program for those interested in starting a consumer disposal program
• At NCPA’s 111th Annual Convention, the House of Delegates passed the following resolution on Prescription Drug Disposal Programs:
  • be it resolved, that NCPA promote that community pharmacists consider initiating medication disposal programs to properly dispose of pharmaceuticals and highlight their role as respected and knowledgeable resources on all aspects of medications.
• NCPA is supportive of these programs in a voluntary manner
NCPA Dispose My Meds

• In 2010, developed partnership with Sharps Compliance, Inc.
• NCPA members can now receive:
  – A discount on a TakeAway™ Environmental Return System products
  – Customizable press and marketing materials for local media and promotion
  – Listing on www.disposemymeds.org
• To date:
  – 1,600 pharmacies participating
  – 80,000 lbs of drugs collected for safe disposal
  – The Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act (S. 3397), legislation backed by the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) that could improve and encourage voluntary prescription drug disposal programs like NCPA’s Dispose My Meds.
Environmental Impact

Nearly 4 billion prescriptions are filled in the United States every year, and it has been estimated that as much as a third of the dispensed medication is unused—leading to potentially 200 million pounds of pharmaceuticals that could adversely affect the environment if disposed of improperly. Studies have demonstrated that pharmaceuticals are present in our nation’s waterways, and further research suggests that certain drugs may cause ecological harm.

Welcome to DisposeMyMeds.org

Welcome to DisposablyMeds.org, an online resource to help you find medication disposal programs at the local independent community pharmacy near you.

Your local community pharmacist has knowledge to ensure the safe and proper handling of your medications, from dispensing to disposal.

In addition to proper disposal, you can help prevent drug misuse and abuse each time you request and take your prescriptions. Once you have taken your prescriptions home, remember to keep them out of the sight and reach of children, and avoid taking them in front of children since they tend to mimic adults. Never give your medications to anyone else or take someone else’s medications.

And remember to take your medicines as directed. A survey released by the National Community Pharmacists Association found that an astounding three-quarters of adults do not always take their prescription medicine as directed. Many forget to take a medication, take less than the prescribed dosage, or stop taking it before the supply runs out. In more than half the cases, the patients made these decisions without consulting a health care professional. Experts estimate that this patient non-adherence costs the United States nearly $100 billion per year in extra medical costs, including hospital visits, doctor visits, lab tests, and nursing home admissions.

We would encourage you to talk to your pharmacist and ensure you are taking your medications correctly. Do not leave the pharmacy without understanding everything you need to know about your medications, including how to store, use and dispose of them properly.

If a drug take-back or collection program is not available in your area, please refer to Federal Guidelines from the Office of National Drug Control Policy on the proper disposal of medications.
NCPA - TakeAway™ Environmental Return System
Sharps® Compliance Overview:

- Founded in 1994
- Publicly traded
- In-depth industry experience
- National reach
- Leading developer and supplier of superior solutions for improving safety and patient solutions
- Compliant with OSHA, DOT and USPS Federal Regulations
- Fully vertically integrated supplier from design to treatment
- On-staff experts
- Complete fulfillment services
- Full data services
Background - Unused patient medication in the U.S.

Over 4 billion prescriptions are filled in the United States annually, it has been estimated that as much as 35% of the dispensed medication goes unused, resulting in over 200 million pounds of pharmaceuticals which can adversely affect the environment if disposed of improperly.

• **Environmental risks:** Waste water treatment plants are not designed to remove pharmaceuticals from water supplies. Although the complete impact of pharmaceuticals in ground water is not yet known, cumulative exposure to pharmaceuticals by animals and aquatic life can have detrimental effects on reproduction and development. Flushing unused patient medications down the toilet or sink can also contaminate ground water.

• **Health risks:** Ingesting expired medications can be harmful. Improper disposal of medications that are no longer indicated or prescribed may lead to accidental ingestion causing drug interactions or adverse drug events. Unintended ingestion by children or pets can also occur.
TakeAway™ Environmental Return System

• Designed to:
  – Be provided by Healthcare professionals to their customers/patients
  – Allow for the return of NON CONTROLLED products ONLY!
  – Provide for counseling to patients on the drug and its therapy
  – Be simple and easy for patient(s) to use and understand
  – Provide for alternative disposal and destruction for non-applicable materials
Regulations

- There is tremendous support among Boards of Pharmacy and other numerous pharmacy groups for programs to help remove unused/expired drugs from the supply chain in a safe and environmentally-friendly manner.

- Most state pharmacy practice acts do not specifically address prescription medication take back programs for disposal.

- The DEA has specific guidelines restricting the return of controlled substances without the direct involvement of law enforcement.
Regulations Continued

• Boards of Pharmacy have said that any medication take back program conducted in a pharmacy should have the following characteristics:

  – No controlled substances returned.

  – The pharmacist should be directly involved to ensure that controlled substances are not being placed into the return (this is also an excellent opportunity for patient education and drug compliance counseling).

Should you have specific questions, contact your Board of Pharmacy to ensure that you are in full compliance with your respective state pharmacy regulations.
TakeAway™ Environmental Return System Capabilities
- Envelopes:

• Approved under Mailing Exemption to DMM 601.12.12.5 agreement with USPS and reviewed by DEA
• Tracked, validated and measurable results
• Currently in use throughout US and US Territories
• Production of returned systems
  – Handled by licensed law enforcement officials
  – Securely stored (packaging is never opened)
  – Weight and date stamped
  – Witnessed and assured destruction
• Online data warehouse of process/results
TakeAway™ Environmental Return System Capabilities – Box Systems:

- Approved under agreement with UPS
- Tracked, validated and measurable results
- Currently in use throughout US
- Production of returned systems
  - Handled by licensed law enforcement officials
  - Securely stored (packaging is never opened)
  - Weight and date stamped
  - Witnessed and assured destruction
- Online data warehouse of process/results
TakeAway™ Environmental Return System 10 and 20 Gallon Drop-Off Systems

• What is included:
  
  – Packaging
  – Instructions for Use
  – Tracking
  – Return postage
  – Security
  – Assured destruction

• Tamper evident packaging
• Police process the return
**TakeAway™ Environmental Return System Envelope**

- What is included:
  - Packaging
  - Instructions for Use
  - Tracking
  - Return postage
  - Security
  - Assured destruction

- Tamper evident packaging
- Police process the return
What is not allowed to be returned?

- Any federal or state recognized controlled drug
  - Follow all restrictions and directions as outlined on each envelope Instructions for Use (IFU), and on the Drop-Off system boxes
  - Direct patients to alternatives such as local law enforcement or destruction using websites as provided on each IFU
  - Direct participants to: [www.sharpsinc.com/unused-medications](http://www.sharpsinc.com/unused-medications)

- Sharps
  - Needles

- Biohazard materials

- Mercury devices or other medical devices

(Any product not specifically approved on next slide)
What is allowed to be returned?

• Non-controlled prescription drugs
  – In their original package when dispensed to the patient
  – Liquid, if any, must be 4 oz. or less per envelope or per script placed into box
    • Liquid must be inside a separate baggie and wrapped with an absorbent such as a paper towel

• Over the counter medications (OTC)
  – In their original package as provided by the manufacture
  – Liquid, if any, must be 4 oz. or less per envelope or per script placed in box
    • Liquid must be inside a separate baggie with an absorbent such as a paper towel