Alternative Methods for Managing Unused Pharmaceuticals – Consumers

Jeff Gloyd, MPH
Manager, Community Programs
WM Healthcare Solutions, Inc.
This presentation is solely for educational purposes and provides only a general description of various program models and regulatory requirements. For a complete description, please consult the relevant federal and state regulatory statutes. Nothing in this presentation constitutes legal advice and you should not legally rely on any information provided in this presentation. We make no warranty, express or implied, with respect to such information and disclaim all liability resulting from any use or reliance of this information.
Alternative Options for Consumers

Common Goals:

- To get unused drugs out of the house
- **Avoid accidental poisonings**
- **Avoid unintended use**
- To provide alternative options to flushing
- An education/awareness tool
- Currently very difficult to know if it would impact environment at all.
- Consumer behavior and desire
Success

Accessible

Cost effective

Simple to operate

Legal
Alternative Options for Consumers

1) One-time/Irregular Community Collection Events
2) Permanent Collection Facilities
   Kiosk/drop box
   Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) event
3) Mail-back Programs
4) Trash (municipal waste)
5) Other (need for regulatory direction/action)
Other – Regulatory Action and Direction Needed

Pharmacists – some taking back all drugs
HHW program – dissolve in acid, controlled included
HHW program – take back all drugs in 5-gal pail, landfill
Kiosks – inside and outside

(DEA approval?, State EPA approval?, PEB approval?)
Irregular Community Collection Events

Drive-through or drive-up day time operation

To accept controls: requires law enforcement

Immediate segregation into controlled/possibly controlled substances and other drugs.

Law enforcement must secure controlled substances and witness/document disposal.

Various levels of sorting and inventorying collected items.
Permanent Collection Facilities

- Drop Boxes/Kiosks

Examples of locations:

- Pharmacies
- Police stations/sheriff’s offices
- Other

Most can’t accept controlled substances (except law enforcement office)

Co-mingling of hazardous and non-hazardous pharmaceuticals likely to occur.

Regulatory Requirements: Contact State DEP/DNR/CEQ
Permanent Collection Facilities - via HHW event/station

• Collected as part of typical HHW program
• Treated either as non-hazardous or as hazardous - dependent on state requirements
• Typically transported by hazardous waste hauling company
• Disposal – varies based on state requirements
Mail-Back

For example, pre-paid mailing envelopes offered in pharmacies, clinics, nursing homes etc.

Consumers place unused drugs in envelope & post them back to pre-determined location.

Mail received at collection location & destroyed.

Example: Maine
Goes through USPS – considered secure.
US DoJ DEA approved to accept controlled substances.

Example: NCPA program
Goes to incinerator in Texas; no controlled substances allowed.
Federal guidelines provide step-by-step instructions about how to dispose of unused drugs in household trash.

Examples are mostly consistent:

- White House Office of National Drug Control Policy
- Food & Drug Administration
- SMARxT Disposal partnership

http://www.smarxtdisposal.net/
Summary/Discussion

Any other options for Consumers, Utilities, Government Bodies?

When assessing alternatives we should consider:

- What is the effect, if any, on public health?
- What is the effect, if any, on the environment?
- Feasibility and long-term sustainability
- What should be the measures of success?
Questions?

Contact information:

Jeff Gloyd, MPH
Manager, Community Programs
1021 Main Street
Suite 1070
Houston, TX 77002
713-202-3469 (cell)
jgloyd@wm.com