Medications Return Programs

http://www.medicationsreturn.ca/

Post-Consumer Pharmaceutical Stewardship Association
PCPSA
Outline

- History
- Mission / Roles
- Medications Return Program
- Other programs
History

- Federal non profit corporation (1999)
- All industry board
  - RX&D, CGPA and CHPC (founding members)
- Focus on pharmaceutical and natural health products
Guiding Principles

- **Level playing field for all involved companies**
  Governments must be prepared to put into place sufficient enforcement mechanisms so that all affected companies will be required to participate.

- **Shared responsibility**
  Costs of running a provincial program is shared between pharmaceutical (brand name and generic) and consumer health products industries.

- **Post-Consumer waste stream**
  The focus of this program is to manage and dispose of products in the consumer (i.e., household) waste stream as opposed to commercial products.
Guiding Principles (con’t)

- **Economic and environmental efficiency**
  The lowest overall costs must be the goal of the program and we must ensure that industry benchmarks for both acceptable costs and effective and safe environmental management are developed.

- **Environmental management**
  Disposal of products must only be managed in locations that have environmental and health protection standards for handling household special waste.
Management Roles

- Extended Producer Responsibility / Industry Stewardship Plan
- Develop program plan
- Implement program
- Administer program
MRP Approach

- Offer “one stop” for product stewards
- Common fee reporting
- Harmonization of product definitions
- Central administration
- Single board of directors
- Build technical expertise
MRP Approach

- One organization managing comparable programs/provinces
- Interface with governments and local stakeholders
- Contract local program administrator
- Communications
- Assist with collection sites management
- Streamline operational matters
MRP Review

Administration
- Revenue/fees
- Compliance reviews
- Steward relations

Communications

Operations
- Collection system
- Transportation
- Disposal
Medications Return Program

- Public
  - You can take outdated or unused medicines to your community pharmacy.
  - No fee

Don't throw it out
Take-it back to your nearest pharmacy, or visit www.medicationsreturn.ca for more information.
Medications Return Program

Pharmacies
- Pharmacists are in an ideal position to assess and act on the individual patient's reasons for returning medication and to assist in the safe disposal of unwanted drugs.
Medications Return Program

ACCEPTED
- All prescription drugs
- OTC’s
- Natural health products
Medications Return Program

- NOT ACCEPTED
  - Sharps, needles or syringes
  - Cosmetics
  - Disinfectants
  - Antiseptics
  - Antidandruff products and shampoos
  - Mouthwashes and toothpastes
  - Pharmaceuticals from physicians' offices or hospitals
  - Veterinary medications and products
Medications Return Program

- Pharmacies
  - Once the MRP container is full, the pharmacist contacts the Administrator who arranges for pick up and replacement of containers within 7 days.
  - The Program Administrator consolidates and then sends the collected residual medications to a licensed incinerator for safe disposal.
Containers
Medications Return Program

- Pharmacists regard the program as a value added service to their clientele.
- Containers are behind pharmacist’s counters
- Dry contents are removed from original containers and poured into the containers (original bottles are recycled).
- Liquids are either deposited in original containers or poured into smaller vials that fit through the container opening.
- No special security measures are taken.
- No differentiation is made between controlled, narcotics and other drugs.
- Full containers are picked up by DHL, UPS or private company and replaced with new containers.
- Containers are stored until we can shipped to incineration facility.
- No escort is required to accompany drugs in transit.
Medications Return Program

- Allows the public to return unused or expired medications to pharmacies.
- Essentially available at every community pharmacy in B.C.
- The cost of running the program is paid in full by the industry. No eco-fee. No fee to participate.
- The program has been running for 12 years without incident.
Challenges

Variations by province

- Product definitions vary
- Who can/who must report
- Reporting systems/frequency
- Industry led v govt agency
Challenges

- Single program/multiple programs within one regulation
- Targets/penalties
- Consumer products v commercial
- Impact of hazardous waste regulations
## Provincial Programs

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### Voluntary Programs

- EnviRx
- Pharmaceutical Waste Disposal
- Medication Disposal Program (PANS)
- Take-it-back
- Multi Material Stewardship Board
Questions?

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