Medications Return Programs in Canada

POST-CONSUMER PHARMACEUTICAL STEWARDSHIP ASSOCIATION

MAY 2011
Outline

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

- Federal non profit corporation (1999)
- All industry board
  - Brand-name, Generic and Consumer-Health Products
- Focus on pharmaceutical and natural health products to meet provincial regulations
Guiding Principles

- Level playing field for all companies
- Shared responsibility
- Consumer waste stream
- Effectiveness Economic and environmental
- Standards - Environmental
Management Roles

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

- Offer “one stop” for product **stewards**
- Common fee structure
- **Harmonization** of product definitions
- Central administration
- Single board of directors
- Build technical expertise
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Medications Return Program

- You can take outdated or unused medicines to your community pharmacy.

- No fee
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

- **YES**
  - All prescription drugs
  - OTC Medications (pills/liquids)
  - Natural Health Product
  - Anti-fungal creams
  - Anti-bacterial creams
  - Inhalers
  - Patches

- **NO**
  - Sharps, Syringes or Needles
  - Shampoos
  - Mouthwash
  - Antiperspirants
  - Antiseptics
  - Pharmaceuticals from farms
  - Hospitals
  - pharmacies
  - Expired samples

Loose pills
Blister packs
No free liquids
Medications Return Program

- 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** facility for safe disposal.
Medications Return Program

- Value added **service** to their clientele.
- Containers are **behind** pharmacist’s counters.
- 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.
Funding Mechanism

- In 2010, the costs of the BC program and national office was $500,000.00; 2011 is $585,000.00.

- The cost of running the program is paid in full by the industries.

- The pharmaceutical and consumer health sectors contributions are based on collected returns and market share.
Medications Return Program

- Allows the public to return unused or expired medications to pharmacies.
- No eco-fee. No fee to participate.
- The program has been running for 12 years without incident.
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Challenges

Variations between province

- Definitions
- Stewards
- Reporting
- Industry / Government
Challenges

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

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Ginette Vanasse
Executive Director
PCPSA
406-1111 Prince of Wales Dr.
Ottawa, ON K2C 3T2
613-723-7282

ginette.vanasse@medicationsreturn.ca
http://www.medicationsreturn.ca