

National Pharmaceutical Take Back Initiative VII

On October 26th, 2013, from 10am-2pm, DEA will coordinate a collaborative effort with state and local law enforcement agencies focused on removing potentially dangerous controlled substances from our nation's medicine cabinets. A national take back day will provide a unified opportunity for the public to surrender expired, unwanted, or unused pharmaceutical controlled substances and other medications to law enforcement officers for destruction. This one-day effort will bring national focus to the issue of pharmaceutical controlled substance abuse. The program provides an opportunity for law enforcement to collaborate with the DEA and establish a safe collection site.

Collection Day Protocols

- On Saturday, October 26th, 2013, state and local law enforcement agencies will host one or more collection sites at locations of their choosing. Locations should be selected that provide easy access and available parking. A law enforcement officer, from the participant department, must remain with the drug disposal box at all times.
- Controlled, non-controlled, and over the counter medications may be collected from individuals. The general public is often unaware of the distinction in medication status. Intra-venous solutions, injectibles, and syringes will not be accepted due to potential hazard posed by blood-borne pathogens. If the law enforcement agency wishes to collect these items, they may do so but they are responsible for the storage and destruction.
- Collection efforts may be combined with community drug awareness activities and involve the distribution of brochures and other information.
- This program is anonymous and all efforts should be made to protect the anonymity of individuals disposing of medications. Participants may dispose of medication in its original container or by removing the medication from its container and disposing of it directly into the disposal box. Liquid products, such as cough syrup, should remain sealed in their original container. The depositor should ensure that the cap is tightly sealed to prevent leakage.
- No effort should be made by law enforcement personnel to count, inventory, or log medications. However, it would be extremely helpful if the personnel working the site try to ensure that needles, cleaning supplies, or general household waste are not placed in the boxes.
- Illicit substances such as marijuana or methamphetamine are not a part of this initiative and should not be placed in collection containers. If an individual attempts to surrender an illicit controlled substance, law enforcement personnel should handle such material as abandoned property in accordance with department policy.

- At the conclusion of the event, a law enforcement officer will seal the drug disposal boxes. Each box should be labeled with the department's name, site location, and number of boxes i.e. box 1 of 10.
- Due to the number of sites across North Texas and Oklahoma it is requested that the state and local law enforcement agencies return the full boxes after the event to their local DEA office. DEA will be coordinating with each of the law enforcement agencies to accomplish this goal. If the boxes cannot be returned the day of the event the local law enforcement agency will need to return the drug collection boxes to their police department and store them per their department's standard operating procedures for safe keeping and temporary storage, until they are turned over to DEA.