

Medications Return Program

<http://www.medicationsreturn.ca/>

Post-Consumer Pharmaceutical Stewardship Association
PCPSA

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Outline

- History
- Medications Return Program
- Funding
- Guiding Principles
- Other provincial programs
- Comments



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History

- In 1996, the pharmaceutical and self-care health industries voluntarily established the Medications Return Program. These were:
 - Canadian Generic Pharmaceutical Association (CGPA)
 - Canada's Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies (Rx&D)
 - NDMAC-*Advancing Canadian self-care*
- In 1997, pharmaceuticals products were regulated under the *Post-Consumer Residual Stewardship Program Regulation*.
- In 1999, the industry created a stewardship association to meet the Government regulations.



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History

- In 2004, the *Recycling Regulation B.C. Reg. 449/2004* completed the shift to a more performance based system.
- All PCPSA' members (brand-owners of pharmaceutical and self-care health products) are in compliance with the Regulation with an approved Product Stewardship Plan in place, the *Medications Return Program*.



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Medications Return Program

- This program allows the public to return unused or expired medications to pharmacies.
- The program is essentially available at every community pharmacy in B.C (approx .900).
- There is no separate fee to participate.
- The cost of running the program is paid in full by the industry. No visible eco-fee.
- The program has been running for 10 years without incident.



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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.



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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.



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Medications Return Program

- Public

- You can take outdated or unused medicines to your community pharmacy. With safe and effective programs in place, consumers are easily dispose of expired and unused medicines.



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Medications Return Program

- ACCEPTED

- All prescription drugs
- Nonprescription medicine
- Natural health products
- Vitamin and mineral supplements
- Throat lozenges



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Medications Return Program

- NOT ACCEPTED

- Sharps, needles or syringes
- Cosmetics, antiperspirants, antiseptic and medicated skin care products
- Hard surface and toilet disinfectant cleaners
- Contact lens disinfectants
- Sunburn protectants
- Mouthwashes and toothpastes
- Pharmaceuticals from physicians' offices or hospitals



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Funding Mechanism

- In 2006 the cost of the program, including management, communications, collection and disposal was \$253,600.
- The Generic and Research based sector(80%) and the self-care health sector (20%) contributions are based on collected returns.
- The industry is ready to share the cost to address diversion issues, accidental poisoning and environmental concerns.



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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 self-care 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.



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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.



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Provincial Programs

- Regulated
 - British Columbia
- Under development
 - Ontario Municipal Household Special Waste
 - Manitoba Household Hazardous Waste
- Voluntary Programs
 - Alberta EnviRx
 - Saskatchewan Pharmaceutical Waste Disposal
 - Nova Scotia Medication Disposal Program (PANS.)
 - Prince Edward Island Take-it-back



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COMMENTS



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