Secure Medicine Return & Pharmaceutical Stewardship

Margaret Shield PhD
Community Environmental Health Strategies

www.CEHstrategies.com
Lots of Medicines Go Unused

For many reasons:

• Overprescribing or Overpurchasing
• Patient doesn’t finish / side effects
• Changes in medications.
• “Use As Needed” medicines expire before used.
• Lots of medicines needed during serious illness or end-of-life care.

Secure & Safe Disposal Needed
Secure Medicine Return Needed to Reduce Access to Medicines

Prevent Poisonings and Deaths

Leading cause of unintentional injury deaths

Common cause of poisonings and ER visits, especially for kids and seniors

Prevent Misuse & Addiction

73% of teens say it’s easy to get prescription drugs from parents’ medicine cabinets

Many teens think prescription drugs are safer to use than street drugs
Opioid Abuse & Addiction Epidemic

National data: 45% of heroin users are also addicted to prescription opioid painkillers.

Snohomish Health District data: Over half of people injecting heroin have also abused prescription drugs - Opioids or Amphetamines. 91% of those people abused the prescription drugs first.
Comprehensive Prevention Approach to Prescription Drug Abuse from National Drug Control Strategy

- Educate health providers and the public
- Expand prescription monitoring programs
- Provide safe drug disposal – increase return/take-back and disposal programs
- Focus on enforcement to address “pill mills” and “doctor shopping”
Secure Medicine Return Needed to Prevent Pollution

- Prevent waste medicines from adding to pollution in waterways and water supplies.
- Medicines are dangerous or hazardous wastes.
- Not treated by septic or wastewater systems.
- Trash cans are not secure.
- FDA, DEA, EPA recommend secure medicine take-back as better than trash disposal.
New Opportunities for More Convenient Drug Take-Back Under 2014 DEA Rule

Controlled Substances Can Be Collected with All Other Medicines.

Secure Collection Receptacles at:
- Retail pharmacies
- Hospitals with on-site pharmacies
- Narcotic treatment centers
- Long-term care facilities (partnered with a retail pharmacy)
- and Law Enforcement Drop Boxes as previously allowed.

Take-Back Events Run By Law Enforcement
Current Medicine Return Options Are

Too Limited & Not in All Communities

Not Sustainably Funded

Only capturing “tip of the iceberg”

No resources to expand collection sites to pharmacies and hospitals.

No resources for program promotion.

Staffing burden on law enforcement and local agencies.

Unstable funding means programs have shut down.

No capacity to collect more uncaptured drug waste.
Drug manufacturers finance and operate medicine take-back programs, as part of doing business.

**France** since 1994.
**Canada** in British Columbia since 1998; now expanded to all provinces.
**Mexico** launched in 2008.
also **Brazil, Columbia, Hungary, Spain**.
Pharmaceutical Stewardship Regulations in 2 WA Counties & Counting…

Ordinances enacted by local Boards of Health:
✓ King County – Program Launch in January 2017
✓ Snohomish County

Ordinances in Development:
• Pierce County see TPCHD.org
• Kitsap County
& several more counties beginning policy processes.
Estimated Cost to Drug Manufacturers for Pharmaceutical Stewardship

~ 0.1% of annual medicine sales.

0.1% = 1 penny for every $10 of sales.

Or a few pennies internalized in the cost of each container of prescription or over-the-counter medicines.

Program costs estimates:

~ $1.2 million per year for Alameda County (pop. ~ 1.6 million) estimated by PhRMA and other trade associations in 2013.

~ $1 million per year for King County (pop. ~ 2 million) estimated by King County staff in 2013.
Overview of Secure Medicine Return Regulations

Drug manufacturers must finance and provide a county-wide secure medicine return system.

- **Provide secure drop boxes** in every pharmacy, hospital, and law enforcement agency that volunteers to participate. Minimum number of drop boxes in every city/town. *Prepaid mailers for homebound residents.*
- **Accept prescription and over-the-counter medicines.**
- **Provide education:** conduct public awareness surveys; annual reporting.
- **Secure protocols** per DEA Rule and all federal/state laws.
- **Environmentally sound disposal** at EPA recommended incinerators.

Government provides oversight for safety and compliance.
Thank You Senior Lobby for Supporting Medicine Take-back Legislation!
2017 WA Drug Take-Back Bill

Representative Strom Peterson, 21st LD

Photo by Stephen Colebourne
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Margaret Shield, PhD
Community Environmental Health Strategies, LLC
206-499-5452
margaret.shield@CEHstrategies.com
www.CEHstrategies.com