
National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day April 27

Many Pharmacies have Medication Drop-off Programs All Year

According to the 2017 National Survey on Drug Use and Health¹, six million Americans misused controlled prescription drugs. The study shows that a majority of abused prescription drugs were obtained from family and friends, often from the home medicine cabinet.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency's (DEA) Prescription Drug Take-Back Day is Saturday, April 27. However, you can educate your patients all year long about the importance of properly disposing of unused drugs. This DEA [toolkit](#) provides different materials to help you.

Safely disposing of unused medications, including opioids, is an easy but critical step we can all take to help reduce this public health epidemic. If patients have unused medicines at home, let them know of these primary methods for safely disposing of them:

- Find a local location for Prescription Drug Take Back Day [here](#). On days when that service is not active, patients can ask their pharmacists for a safe disposal location.
- Walgreens has more than 60 locations with medication disposal kiosks in Florida. Your patients can type "*medication disposal*" in the search bar on [walgreens.com](#) to find a location near them.
- If your patient cannot access a medication disposal location, the DEA recommends taking the medications out of their bottles and mixing them with something unappealing like used kitty litter or coffee grounds; then seal the container and throw it away. Remind patients to black-out personal information from their medicine labels before throwing the containers away.

Thank you for the care you provide your patients, our members. We will continue working with you to help reduce this public health crisis. The following websites provide information for providers, patients and their families on prescription drug abuse:

- [DEA.gov](#)
- [Justthinktwice.gov](#)
- [Getsmartaboutdrugs.gov](#)

¹Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. (2018). *2017 National Survey on Drug Use and Health Final Analytic File Codebook*, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Rockville, MD