

Proposed Secure Medicine Return Regulations Pharmacy Fact Sheet



There is currently a lack of safe, convenient and legal disposal options for unused medications in Kitsap County. Medicine take-back programs provide a secure and environmentally-sound way to dispose of leftover or expired medicines, and are a part of a comprehensive approach to preventing prescription drug abuse.

The Kitsap Public Health Board is considering a local ordinance to establish a convenient secure medicine return system for residents that provides convenient drop-off locations for unused medications throughout Kitsap County at no cost to residents. The regulations propose to:

- Expand safe medicine disposal options for Kitsap County residents to reduce risks of misuse, poisonings, and overdoses from leftover and expired medicines, and reduce the amount of pharmaceuticals entering sewer, septic, and solid waste systems.
- Improve convenience for residents by expanding locations of secure drop-boxes from law enforcement offices to pharmacies and hospitals, as now allowed under DEA regulations.
- Provide an option for homebound residents to dispose of unused medicine by mail at no cost.
- Ensure financial sustainability through a pharmaceutical industry-financed system providing sufficient resources to promote the program and handle larger volumes of returned medicines, and that relieves burdens on local government agencies and taxpayers.

Pharmaceutical Stewardship

These proposed regulations, modeled after regulations recently passed in King and Snohomish Counties, require pharmaceutical manufacturers to develop and pay for a coordinated secure medicine return system in Kitsap County. This concept is called pharmaceutical stewardship. Most manufacturers will combine their resources and hire a company to coordinate the system.

How Do Pharmacies Fit In?

In the proposed regulation, retail pharmacies can volunteer to host a secure drop-box for people to drop off unwanted medicine (see page 2 or visit www.kitsappublichealth.org for details).

Learn more and give us your feedback by completing our short pharmacy survey at: <https://goo.gl/7vfZxD>.



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Frequently Asked Questions

How can I sign-up to participate?

To participate, you must:

- Be a registered pharmacy with the Washington State Pharmacy Assurance Commission.
- Amend registration with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to become a collector.
- Authorize two employees to maintain keys to the secure drop-box.
- Lock the drop-box when the site is closed.
- Manage and maintain required documentation.

I am a pharmacy but don't want to host a drop-box. Is that okay?

Yes, you aren't required to host a drop-box. However, if you choose not to participate, you will be required to share educational materials with customers on medicine return programs and drop-box locations in Kitsap County.

Our pharmacy is a compounding-only pharmacy. Can we participate?

Yes. Any pharmacy registered with the Washington State Pharmacy Assurance Commission and authorized by the DEA as a collector can participate to host a drop-box. The only exception to this is pharmacies run by facilities that handle and administer drugs for their patients. These facilities must follow existing laws regarding business disposal of medications.

What will it cost to host a drop-box?

The cost should be minimal, but may include some staff time to maintain the drop-box. The pharmaceutical industry and stewardship organization will purchase and install the drop-box and will securely collect, transport and destroy unused medications. They will give you educational materials on the medicine return program for your customers. Since there must be a minimum number of drop-boxes throughout the county, pharmacies can negotiate payment for their participation.

What type of medicine is accepted in the drop-boxes?

Most prescription, pet medication and over-the-counter medicine from the home is accepted. This includes controlled substances. Not accepted:

- Vitamins and supplements.
- Herbal based remedies and homeopathic drugs.
- Personal care products regulated as both cosmetics and nonprescription drugs under the federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act.
- Injector products and medical devices that contain no covered drug.
- Biological products.
- Pet products containing pesticide, like flea collars.
- Schedule I drugs, like marijuana.

Where can I find a copy of the proposed regulation?

A copy of the draft regulation is available at www.kitsappublichealth.org.

How do we sign up?

The Kitsap Public Health District will notify all pharmacies if the regulation passes. You can sign-up for updates at www.kitsappublichealth.org/subscribe, or by taking our survey at <https://goo.gl/7vfZxD>.

When does the program start?

If the ordinance is approved, drug producers must submit a proposed stewardship plan no later than six months after the proposed regulation is adopted. Producers must begin operation of the stewardship plan no later than 3 months after the plan is approved by the Kitsap Public Health Board. Visit www.kitsappublichealth.org for key dates and details on the ordinance review/approval process.