

Pharmacies Have a Role in Drug Disposal

(Because leftover opioids
can put people at risk)



THE PHARMACY'S ROLE IN MEDICATION DISPOSAL

DRUG DISPOSAL FACTS

- About half of people who misused pain relievers reported the source was “given by, bought from, or took from a friend or relative”
- Vulnerable household members may access leftover opioids, leading to accidental overdose
- Proper disposal keeps drugs out of soil and water
- The FDA and EPA both recommend promptly disposing of unused, unwanted, and expired medication at a take-back event or permanent disposal receptacle

LEGAL REQUIREMENT

KRS 218A.170 requires pharmacists to inform patients about the importance of proper and safe disposal when dispensing a prescription for an opioid, benzodiazepine, barbiturate, codeine, or amphetamine

The pharmacist or designee may inform patients verbally, in writing, or via posted signage

FIND DISPOSAL LOCATIONS

Scan the QR code to access the DEA's Controlled Substance Public Disposal Locations database; local law enforcement agencies may also offer a public disposal receptacle



COMING IN 2024

The FDA is updating its opioid REMS program to encourage opioid disposal

When implemented, pharmacies will have the option to order prepaid mail-back envelopes from opioid manufacturers, which they can then provide to patients prescribed opioid analgesics

Wholesalers may be able to provide more information about how and when opioid disposal programs will roll out

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