



## Household Medication Collection by Pharmacies Technical Guidance Document SW-2012-G1

This technical guidance document (TGD) explains which medications may and may not be accepted by take-back programs at pharmacies and describes best management practices for participating pharmacies.

### Background

Improper storage and disposal of household medications presents risks to human health and safety and the environment. To promote proper management of these medications, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) issued a policy titled “Kansas Medication Disposal Program.” This policy establishes the authority for pharmacies to collect unwanted or expired medications generated by households and long-term residential care facilities (excluding controlled substances). Bureau of Waste Management (BWM) Policy 2011-P7 clarifies that these medications are not considered hazardous waste when they are collected as part of a pharmaceutical take-back program.

### Enrollment in the program

Each pharmacy that wants to establish a pharmaceutical take-back program is encouraged to enroll in that Kansas Medication Disposal Program. The application form can be found on the BWM website, [kdheks.gov/waste/](http://kdheks.gov/waste/), and should be submitted to BWM.

### Pharmaceuticals that may be accepted

Pharmacies may collect the following items:

- Prescription medications (but **not** narcotics or other controlled substances)
- Over-the-counter medications
- Medication samples
- Pet medications
- Vitamins
- Liquid medications in leak-proof containers
- Medicated ointments and lotions
- Inhalers

### Items that may NOT be accepted

Pharmacies may not collect the following items:

- Controlled substances, including narcotics and illegal drugs
- Bloody or infectious waste
- Personal care products
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Aerosol cans
- Thermometers
- IV bags
- Needles or other sharps, including epi-pens
- Empty medication containers
- Bandages

### Classification as a “household”

In addition to medications generated by individual households, medications generated by long-term residential care facilities are considered household medications. Pharmacies are allowed, but not required, to accept medications from these facilities.

### Providing information to the public

Each participating pharmacy must post a sign to inform the public about which medications can be brought in to the pharmacy and which medications cannot be accepted. These signs may be obtained by contacting BWM and are also available for download from the Kansas Medication Disposal Program on the BWM website. Pharmacies are also encouraged to provide information on disposal options for medications and other wastes that are not accepted.

### **Monitoring collection**

The public may only drop off medications when a pharmacist is on duty. The medications must be handed to a pharmacy employee, and placed immediately in a secured storage container. Pharmacies may not collect substances that are identified as controlled or illegal substances. Pharmacies may accept unidentified/unknown medications.

### **Securing medications**

Collected medications must be placed in a secure, labeled storage container as soon as they are accepted. The storage container must be located in an area of the pharmacy that is not accessible to the public. The storage container must be locked or made otherwise inaccessible when a pharmacist is not present.

### **Spills**

All spills must be cleaned up as soon as possible using methods and safety precautions appropriate to the nature and type of spilled material. Spill clean-up debris should be sent for disposal with the collected medications.

### **Disposal of medications**

All collected medications must be sent to one of the following:

- A medical waste disposal company; (incinerator, autoclave, etc.);
- A municipal solid waste landfill (with approval from the landfill and a special waste authorization issued by KDHE); or
- Other disposal facility approved by KDHE.

### **Records**

The following records related to this program must be maintained for a minimum of five years:

- Pounds of medications disposed;
- Date of disposal and name of facility;
- Invoices for disposal;
- Solid waste disposal authorizations;
- Contracts and agreements;
- Policies and procedures.

### **Reporting**

Recorded quantities of waste pharmaceuticals must be reported to KDHE annually on forms provided by the department.

For additional information regarding the proper management of solid or hazardous waste in Kansas, you may contact the Bureau of Waste Management at (785) 296-1600, or the address at the beginning of this document, or visit the Bureau's website at <http://www.kdheks.gov/waste/>.