

Medication Disposal Program

Purpose

To describe the process for disposing of unwanted or expired medications from households and long term care facilities.

Scope

This document applies to all Missouri AuBurn Pharmacy locations.

Policy

1. Pharmacies may collect unwanted medications for destruction from patient/customer households and long-term residential care facilities by providing a collection receptacle or via an authorized mail back program.
2. No additional Board notification or registration is required to operate a take-back program for **non-controlled** medications, however, participating pharmacies must establish and follow policies/procedures for collecting/destroying medication (CSR§2220-2.095).
3. In order to collect **controlled substances** for destruction, pharmacies must modify their existing Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs and DEA registrations by submitting a written request to the DEA Registration Unit or on-line at <https://health.mo.gov/safety/bnndd> and www.DEAdiversion.usdoj.gov respectively (CFR§1317).
4. Medication may be accepted from any member of the public. However, collection receptacles or mail-back programs cannot be used to dispose of unused/unwanted medication in the pharmacy's inventory (e.g., expired medication, medical waste).
5. Medication collected is limited to non-controlled prescriptions, controlled prescriptions (if registered), over-the-counter medications, pet medications, vitamins, liquid medications in leak-proof containers, medicated ointments & lotions, and non-aerosol inhalers.
6. Mail-Back Programs: For mail-back programs, the public must be provided pre-addressed, postage-paid mail-back packages for returning medication. Mail-back packages must be nondescript and cannot include any markings or other information that might indicate the package contains medication. Each package must include a unique identification number or other unique identifier to enable tracking. Mail-back packages cannot be returned to the pharmacy. Instead, packages must be directly mailed to a collector that is authorized by the DEA or other federal law to destroy medication (CFR§1317.70).
7. Collection Receptacles: Collection receptacles must be securely placed and maintained inside the pharmacy's physical building, or long-term care facility, in a manner that prevents theft, diversion, or unauthorized removal. Receptacles must be securely locked, substantially constructed containers that are equipped with inner liners for storing medication. Receptacles must be visible to pharmacy staff at all times and may not be located in or near exit doors. A sign must be prominently displayed on the outer container of the receptacle indicating that only non-controlled substances may be deposited into the receptacle. If the receptacle is also used to collect controlled substances, the required sign must comply with state and federal controlled substance laws (CFR§1317.75).
8. Inner liners must be installed or removed from a collection receptacle by or under the supervision of at least two board licensees/registrants, and immediately sealed once removed from the receptacle. Sealed inner liners pending destruction may be stored at the pharmacy in a securely locked, substantially constructed cabinet or in a securely locked room for no more than 30 business days (3 business days at a LTCF). Medications may only be collected when a pharmacist is on duty.

9. Medications may be destroyed in one of two ways:
 - a. On-site Destruction: Medication may be destroyed on the physical premises of the pharmacy. Two board licensees/registrants must witness the destruction of the medication until the substance is rendered non-retrievable.
 - b. Transfer to an Authorized Entity: Collected medication may be mailed, shipped, or transferred to an entity authorized to destroy the medication off-site and must be witnessed by two board licensees/registrants. If medication is transported by the pharmacy to the off-site location, the medication must be constantly moving towards its final location.
10. Records of the following must kept and maintained for 2 years:
 - a. Inventory: Inner-liners present at the pharmacy or LTCF that are unused or awaiting destruction must be inventoried every 12 months and include the date of inventory, number of inner liners present on date of inventory, size of liners (e.g. five 10 gallon liners), the number/identifier on each liner whether unused or awaiting destruction.
 - b. Inner Liners: Pharmacy must record the number/identifier and size of each unused liner as well as the date, address, identifier, and size of each liner when it is installed and removed along with two witness signatures.
 - c. Destruction: On-site destruction records must include the date and method of destruction, inner liner identifier, and two witness signatures. Off-site destruction records must include the date transferred, name and address of the entity where the sealed inner liner was transferred, identifier of the inner liner, and the names of the two witnesses.
11. More information can be found at:
 - a. DEA Drug Disposal Information https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/Drug_Disposal/Informationov/drug_disposal/index.html
 - b. Missouri Unwanted Drug Collection and Disposal Information <https://health.mo.gov/safety/bnnd/collection-disposal-info.php>
 - c. Code of State Regulation §2220-2.095 <https://www.sos.mo.gov/cmsimages/adrules/csr/current/20csr/20c2220-2.pdf>
 - d. Code of Federal Regulations §1317 https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/21cfr/cfr/1317/subpart_b.htm#75