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## Reminder: National Prescription Drug Take Back Day

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**Saturday, April 27th** is National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, which aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of medications.

The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy encourages you to inform your patients of this great opportunity to safely dispose of unused prescription drugs. Recent data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health found that 51 percent of those who misused prescription pain relievers in the past year obtained the prescription pain relievers they had most recently misused from a friend or relative for free. To reduce opportunities for diversion, it is important to regularly dispose of leftover medication.

For collection site locations, please visit:

[https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug\\_disposal/takeback/](https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/).

The Board of Pharmacy has also published resources to help Ohio residents find drug disposal boxes throughout the year. To access the disposal box locators, please visit:

[www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/disposal](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/disposal).

For more information about safe pain medication and pain management practices, please visit: [www.takechargeohio.org](http://www.takechargeohio.org).

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**DEA NATIONAL <sup>Rx</sup>  
TAKEBACK**

**If you don't properly dispose of the unused or expired prescription drugs in your home, they might find a new one.**

Visit [DEATakeBack.com](http://DEATakeBack.com) for a collection site near you.

**DEA NATIONAL <sup>Rx</sup>  
TAKEBACK**

- Unused or expired prescription medications are a public safety issue, leading to accidental poisoning, overdose, and abuse.
- Pharmaceutical drugs can be just as dangerous as street drugs when taken without a prescription or a doctor's supervision.
- The non-medical use of prescription drugs ranks second only to marijuana as the most common form of drug abuse in America.
- The majority of teenagers abusing prescription drugs get them from family and friends—and the home medicine cabinet.
- Unused prescription drugs thrown in the trash can be retrieved and abused or illegally sold. Unused drugs that are flushed contaminate the water supply. Proper disposal of unused drugs saves lives and protects the environment.
- Take-back programs are the best way to dispose of old drugs. But if a program is not available:
  - Take the meds out of their bottles;
  - Mix them with something unappealing like used kitty litter or coffee grounds;
  - Seal them in a bag or disposable container, and throw that away.

For more information on prescription drug abuse, go to:

- [www.DEA.gov](http://www.DEA.gov)
- [www.GetSmartAboutDrugs.com](http://www.GetSmartAboutDrugs.com)
- [www.OnlyThinkTwice.com](http://www.OnlyThinkTwice.com)