

Attachment #7



King County Passes Secure Medicine Return Regulations

The King County Board of Health passed the Secure Medicine Return Regulations on June 20, 2013, establishing an industry-funded product stewardship model to collect and safely dispose of unwanted household medicines from residents of the county. Legislation was developed through a year-long process where a subcommittee of the Board consulted with stakeholders, examined barriers to medicine take-back in the county, and developed a proposed product stewardship policy which was adopted unanimously by the Board.

When the program is in operation, residents will be encouraged to bring leftover, expired, and unneeded medicines to secure drop boxes in retail pharmacies or law enforcement offices throughout the county. The program will be funded and operated by drug producers selling medicines for residential use in or into King County. Public Health-Seattle & King County and the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County will oversee the program for safety and for compliance with the regulation's requirements and standards.

For updates on Secure Medicine Return Regulations

Join our email list: <http://bit.ly/securemeds>

Visit our website: www.KingCountySecureMedicineReturn.org

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Summary of Secure Medicine Return Regulations

Secure collection system

Obligated drug producers selling medicines in or into King County must finance and operate a convenient system of secure medicine drop-off locations at retail pharmacies and law enforcement offices throughout the county. Collection sites will participate voluntarily, and if a medicine drop-off site is not available in a specific area, drug producers must arrange for periodic collection events or pre-paid return mailers. Additionally pre-paid return mailers can be requested for residents who are home bound or disabled.

Handling of drugs must conform to all applicable federal and state laws and regulations, including those of the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Washington State Board of Pharmacy. Current DEA regulations restrict return of controlled substances to law enforcement drop-off sites or events; however, proposed regulations currently in development by the DEA would allow return of controlled substances to retail pharmacy drop boxes and through mail-back programs. Collected medicines will be destroyed at properly permitted high temperature incineration facilities.

Promotion and evaluation requirements

Drug producers are required to promote safe storage of medicines and how to use the medicine return system, and to conduct annual reporting, and periodic surveys. Drop-off site locations and other collection services will be promoted to the community through a toll-free telephone line, a website, and print materials.

Oversight and enforcement

King County will oversee the program to ensure compliance and safety, including review and approval of the stewardship plan(s) from drug producers, monitoring of plan operations, and review of annual reports. Drug producers who are not in compliance with the Regulations are subject to civil penalties.

Medicines Accepted

Medicines accepted for return:

Prescription and non-prescription (over-the-counter) medicines that residents use in their homes, or in other residential settings. Includes medicines sold in any form, both brand name and generic; and includes legally prescribed controlled substances, such as OxyContin, Vicodin, Valium, Ritalin, and stimulants.

Medicines *not* accepted for return:

Over-the-counter drugs that are regulated as cosmetics (for example toothpaste, sunscreen, medicated shampoos); vitamins and supplements; and pharmaceutical waste from businesses.

Costs responsibilities

Obligated drug producers are responsible for costs of: collection supplies for drop-off sites, prepaid mailers, collection events, transportation and disposal, program promotion and evaluation, and other administrative costs. Drug producers cannot charge residents a fee for secure medicine return when they purchase medicines or return them. Costs to drug producers are estimated to be a few pennies per prescription.

Collectors participate voluntarily and provide in-kind staff time at drop-off sites.

The Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County is responsible for costs of up to 400 secure drop boxes for the standard stewardship plan, and assisting with program promotion.

What should King County residents do with unwanted medicines now?

Until the Secure Medicine Return program starts, unwanted medicines can be disposed of at temporary King County take-back locations operated voluntarily by law enforcement agencies and pharmacies.

Find a location at: www.KingCountySecureMedicineReturn.org

Secure medicine return programs, or take-back programs, protect public health and the environment by reducing the amount of medicines available for misuse and keeping waste medicines out of waterways. Reducing access to drugs through medicine take-back programs is a key part of a comprehensive approach to reducing prescription drug abuse.

Risks from Medicines Stored and Used in the Home



Abuse, poisonings, and fatal overdoses from prescription and over-the-counter medicines used in the home have emerged as an epidemic in recent years - the fastest growing drug problem in the U.S. In King County, drug overdoses have surpassed car crashes as a leading cause of preventable deaths.



Unused, expired, and leftover drugs that accumulate in homes increase risks of preventable poisonings, drug abuse, and overdoses. Medicine cabinets provide teens and others with easy access to drugs. Safe storage and disposal of household medicines is critical to reducing misuse and poisonings.



Unwanted medicines flushed down toilets and sinks can end up in our waterways because wastewater treatment facilities cannot effectively remove or degrade all pharmaceutical compounds. Trash disposal of unwanted medicines is not secure and drugs can end up in the environment through landfill leachate.

Implementation of an approved product stewardship plan

The Secure Medicine Return Regulations define specific timing of stewardship plan development, review, implementation and reporting. Development of the Secure Medicine Return program by drug producers is expected to take at least 18 months from adoption of the Regulations based on the requirements and timing specified in the Regulations.

The following overview provides general information on key implementation deadlines. For specific requirements of the Secure Medicine Return Regulations see *Board of Health Chapter 11.50*.

Overview of Implementation Timeline for Secure Medicine Return Regulations

June 20, 2013 - Secure Medicine Return Regulations adopted.

December 20, 2013 - Each drug producer selling covered medicines in or into King County must notify the Director of their intent to participate in a stewardship plan by this date.

December 20, 2013 - Each retailer whose store label appears on a covered medicine sold in or into King County shall notify the Director that the manufacturer of the store labeled drug intends to participate in a stewardship plan; otherwise the retailer shall participate as a producer.

November 14, 2014 - Drug producers participating in the standard plan, or any independent plan, must notify the Director of the name and contact information for their plan operator by this date.

November 14, 2014 - Drug producers participating in the standard plan, or any independent plan, must notify all retail pharmacies and law enforcement agencies in the county of the opportunity to participate as a drop-off site by this date.

February 12, 2015 - Drug producers participating in the standard plan, or any independent plan, must submit a proposed stewardship plan to the Director by this date.

Alternate Formats Available
Voice: 206-263-3050 or TTY Relay: 711

Washington and ordinances of King County. It sets county-wide public health policy, enacts local public health regulations, and carries out other duties of local boards of health as enumerated in Washington State law under RCW 70.05.060.

Secure Medicine Return Regulations King County, Washington

Board of Health Chapter 11.50



New law to create a sustainably financed, county-wide secure medicine return system

