

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pharmacists at <Pharmacy Name> Educate Community on Ways to Prevent Accidental Medication Poisonings

National Poison Prevention Week Activities Offer Opportunities for Patients to Learn about Medication Safety

[CITY, STATE] (Month Date, Year)—Pharmacists at <Pharmacy Name> will use the occasion of National Poison Prevention Week, March XX to XX, 20XX, to educate the community, particularly caregivers of children and seniors, about the precautions they should take to help avoid accidental poisonings involving medications. As part of National Poison Prevention Week, <Pharmacy Name> is offering a prescription drug take-back program to provide an accessible and convenient option for disposing unused medication while helping to educate patients about their health.

"Most accidental poisonings happen among our youngest and oldest populations who are often dependent on a caregiver," said <Pharmacy Owner>. "Accidental poisonings can take many shapes, such as when a child thinks medicine is candy or when a senior becomes confused and takes an additional dose of their medicine."

To prevent accidental poisonings in children and seniors, <Pharmacy Name> offers the following tips:

- Use one pharmacy consistently to fill prescriptions to avoid possible drug interactions.
- Keep a list of the patient's medicines, including medication name, dosage, and frequency.
- Use original child-resistant containers. Leave the original labels on all products, and read the label before using.
- Keep medicines out of sight or in a locked cabinet.
- Avoid taking medicine in front of children. Always refer to medicine as "medicine," not "candy," to encourage your child to take it responsibly.
- Make sure that anyone who is caring for your children, including babysitters and grandparents, knows what medication(s) your child is taking and the dosage schedule.

- Keep the number of the local poison control center number handy (1-800-222-1222).
- Check for expiration dates and periodically clean out the medicine cabinet to safely dispose of unneeded and outdated medicines and bring them to <Pharmacy Name> for safe and environmentally friendly disposal.

<Pharmacy Owner> is a member of the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA®), which launched [DisposeMyMeds™](#), a prescription drug disposal program for consumers, in 2009. By visiting www.disposemymeds.org, consumers can locate a community pharmacy with a drug disposal program near them. To date, more than 1,600 pharmacies have collected more than 200,000 pounds of medications for proper disposal.

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