

Pitch piece to local media on Disposal Program

As a local independent pharmacist and business owner, I believe it's important to give back to the community that supports my business.

That is why during American Pharmacists Month in October, our pharmacy, _____, is now offering a new prescription drug take-back program, in partnership with the National Community Pharmacists Association. We hope to not only help educate patients, but to provide an easy, accessible and convenient option for disposing of unused medications.

In the US, an estimated 250 million pounds of unused medications are improperly disposed of each year. The adverse effects of that improper disposal include:

- Environmental Impact--A 2008 Associated Press Investigation discovered a wide array of pharmaceuticals detected in the drinking water supplies of 24 major metropolitan areas affecting, at least 41 million Americans
- Accidental Ingestion by children, elderly, and pets
- Prescription Medication Abuse--The Partnership for A Drug-Free America reports that every day there are 2,500 teenagers using a prescription medication to get high for the first time. With the exception of marijuana, teens are abusing prescription medications more than any illicit drug

As a pharmacist, I have been extensively trained to help my patients understand how to get the most out of their medicines and, when necessary, how to safely and properly dispose of them. Proper disposal protects our families, our community and our environment. Please find attached additional information regarding my pharmacy's drug takeback program and feel free to contact me for additional information.