



Re: ***Manitoba Medications Return Program***

The *Household Hazardous Material and Prescribed Material Stewardship Regulation* was introduced in Manitoba in February of this year. This regulation requires stewards of pharmaceuticals and natural health products classified as *household hazardous waste (HHW)* to set up programs for the responsible disposal of unused or expired medications.

The *Post Consumer Pharmaceutical Stewardship Association (PCPSA)*, an association representing pharmaceutical and natural health products' brand-owners, is setting up and funding a *Medications Return Program* for the public to return unused or expired medications through their community pharmacies free-of-charge.

Pharmacists recognize the importance of taking medicines as prescribed and of disposing unused and expired medications in order to avoid medication adverse events and improve safety in the home. In Manitoba over 9,400 kg of expired medications was collected and destroyed in 2009 through the HHW program funded by Conservation Manitoba. PCPSA is seeking your support through participation in the Manitoba Medications Return Program to make an even greater impact by helping the public dispose of unused or expired medication in an environmentally-safe manner.

The *Manitoba Medications Return Program* consists of a public awareness campaign on the safe disposal of medication and a disposal system whereby pharmacies are supplied with disposal containers for pharmaceuticals and natural health products returned by the public. Once disposal containers are filled, there will be a pick-up and delivery service available free-of-charge to pharmacies to pick up the filled container and supply the pharmacy with a new container. The program will officially begin on April 1, 2011, however, collection of the returned products can start as soon as your pharmacy signs up and receives our containers identified with the MMRP logo.

For additional information on the Manitoba Medications Program please visit PCPSA's website at http://www.medicationsreturn.ca/manitoba_en.php to learn:

1. How to register,
2. What is covered under this program, and
3. How the program works

If you would like more information on the MMRP, contact PCPSA at 613-723-7282 or send us an e-mail at ginette.vanasse@medicationsreturn.ca. An information package will be sent to all licensed pharmacies in the province within the next month. In the meantime we look forward to partnering with you.

