



MRP e-news

Post-Consumer Pharmaceutical Stewardship Association



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Medications Return Program e- newsletter is published by PCPSA to keep you informed with respect to recent developments in the B.C. Medications Return program. Below is the year in review and important fundamentals on the program.

<i>Medications Return Program</i>	2007	2006
Containers Shipped	2,370	1,868
Containers Received	2,129	1,708
Weight of Pharmaceuticals (kg)	23,384	19,995

- Overall, the program has grown more than expected and we anticipate the growth will be in the 25% range in 2008.
- Brochures and posters were in demand rising awareness of the program in B.C.
- 94% participation rate amongst community pharmacies.

1. What can go in the MRP container?

All unused or expired medications (dry and liquids) are accepted from the public (no purchase required). Please empty dry medication into container wherever possible; ensure patient identifier information is blacked out before recycling the vial.

2. Liquids

You **must** leave liquids in their original containers, to prevent any chemical reactions and odors in the container. If by mistake you introduced liquids to the container, have the container replaced and add absorbent substance like kitty litter or plaster.

3. What about sharps?

We are approved to collect and transport post-consumer medications from Transport Canada and collect medications from the Ministry of Environment. Needles, syringes or other sharps **are not** part of this program. We are currently charged fines when sharps are found in the mix; additional safety measures must be followed for secure incineration. Sharps disposal services are available on the BCPhA website.

4. What about pharmacy samples and dated products?

This program is for consumer waste, stale-dated products from pharmacies cannot be discarded through this program. Licensed pharmacists are required to manage their pharmaceutical waste as described under the *Code of Ethics* from the College of Pharmacists.

Pharmacists are required to count, designate and separately manage any business-generated hazardous waste. We are not licensed to pick up pharmacy waste.

Thank you for your continued support with this stewardship program for safe disposal of medications returned from the public

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