

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Washington State: King County's Perspective on Pharmaceutical Stewardship

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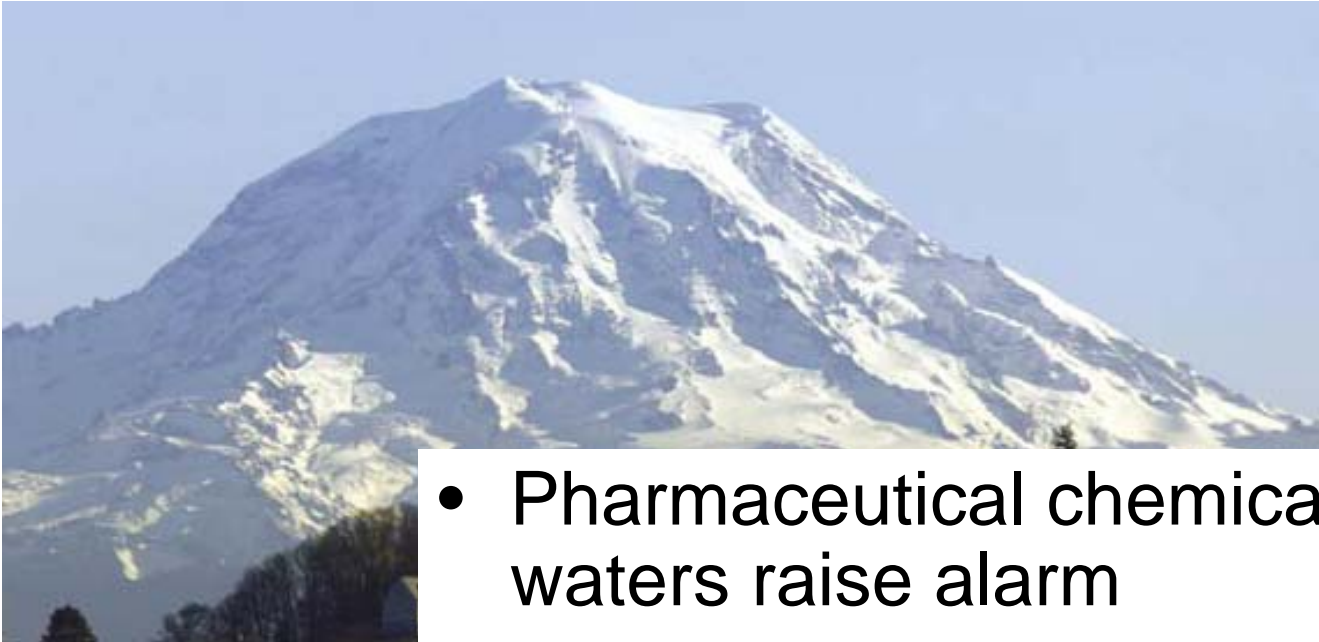


Local Hazardous Waste
Management Program
In King County

Seattle, WA



Washington/King County/Seattle concerns



- Pharmaceutical chemicals in national waters raise alarm
- Some local data confirm presence in streams, groundwater, wastewater
- Very “green” population
- High precautionary interest

Concerns (cont'd)

- How much of pharmaceuticals sold go unused?
 - Could be as much as 50%?
 - A substantial waste management issue
 - Data or reliable estimates needed by type of medication



Concerns (cont'd)

- How much of unused pharmaceuticals sold are controlled substances?



- WA Board of Pharmacy estimates range from 10% to 24%
- This is potentially a significant amount requiring segregation and special handling
- These substances are all mixed in with other pharms, no simple way to keep separate

Concerns (cont'd)

- How much of unused pharmaceuticals sold designate as hazardous waste?
 - 10+% of total volume
 - More for state-only
 - P-listed, U-listed, ignitable, toxic, corrosive, reactive



Concerns (cont'd)

- How much of unused pharmaceuticals sold designate as hazardous waste?
 - * Examples: Epinephrine, Nitroglycerin, Warfarin, Chlorambucil, Lindane, Rubbing Alcohol, Glacial Acetic Acid, Mercury (thimerosal)



Concerns (cont'd)

- How best to handle old, unused, waste pharms?
 - HHW collection services already swamped, not appropriate for medications
 - Strong interest in a product stewardship approach
 - Willing partners in local pharmacies



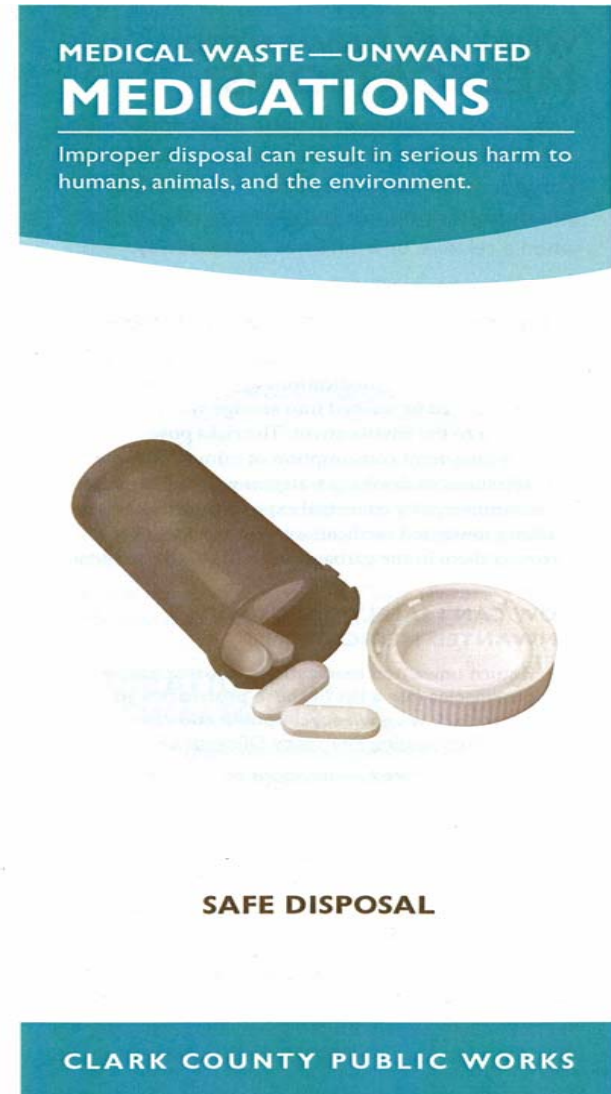
Concerns (cont'd)

- Most pharmaceuticals simply don't belong in the environment
 - There is something not right about finding ibuprofen, Prozac, EDCs in streams, lakes, Puget Sound
 - Precaution is warranted



Washington collection projects

- Clark County (Vancouver, WA, area)
 - Collect waste pharmaceuticals at HHW centers, local retail pharmacies since 2003
 - Collect controlled substances at Sheriff's Office
 - Very low participation, quantities to date



Washington Collection Projects

- Retail Pharmacy Take-Back in Seattle/King County area
 - In development with chain of retail stores and local HMO



Immediate challenges

- Who should take possession of waste pharmaceuticals:
 - pharmacist, wholesaler, reverse distributor, waste mgmt authority, sheriff?
- Container design to restrict access
- HIPAA considerations
- Handling controlled substances
 - DEA pilot waiver? Sheriff-owned containers?



Immediate challenges (cont'd)



- How to separate out hazardous wastes from non-hazardous?
- Who becomes the designated generator of the waste?
- How best to destroy?
- Who pays?

National pharm-waste listserv

Pharmwaste — national pharmaceutical waste

About Pharmwaste

Proper disposal of pharmaceutical waste is an emerging issue. Pharmaceutical compounds are found in waterways across the country. This listserv is to discuss and track ideas, projects, grants, and other issues. People from all agencies, but others are welcome to join.

- <http://lists.dep.state.fl.us/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/pharmwaste>
- Laurie.Tenace@dep.state.fl.us



Product Stewardship Project

- New project at PSI
- National dialogue of stakeholders
- Creation of product stewardship-based “action plan” and agreements
- <http://www.productstewardship.us>



PRODUCT
STEWARDSHIP

I N S T I T U T E

Sustainable Solutions to Protect Our Environment

Product Stewardship: Australia



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Unwanted Medicines are a Household Hazard



The National Return and Disposal of Unwanted Medicines Ltd, known as the RUM program, is a national not-for-profit company, set up to enable

consumers to return unwanted or out-of-date medicines to any pharmacy, at any time. The medicines returned are in no way reused or recycled.

COLLECTION PROTOCOL

Consumers will be encouraged to return their unwanted and out of date medicines to their local pharmacies.

[>>click here for more](#)

PROTOCOL FOR PHARMACISTS

At commencement of the



- <http://www.returnmed.com.au/>

Product Stewardship: British Columbia, Canada

Waste Management Act

POST-CONSUMER RESIDUAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM REGULATION

(includes amendments up to B.C. Reg. 21)



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

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- 3 Duty of an association
- 4 Annual report by the director

Part 2 — Stewardship Program

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- 5.1 Exemption of paint stewardship program under the Stewardship Program Regulation from refiling the

6 Timelines

- 7 Written reasons required

Part 3 — Stewardship Requirements

- 8 Application of stewardship requirements

Product Category
Solvent and flammable liquids
Pesticide
Gasoline
Pharmaceutical
Lubricating oil
Empty oil container
Oil filter
Paint

Product Stewardship: British Columbia, Canada



[Ministry Home](#) > [Environmental Management Branch](#) > [Product Stewardship](#) > [Medications Program](#)

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Director's Reports to the Public:

- [Report for 2003](#)
- [Report for 2002](#)
- [Report for 2001](#)

British Columbia Medications Return Program

Pharmaceuticals are a small but very important component of the waste stream affecting every household in British Columbia. Unused pharmaceuticals pose a significant health, safety and environmental hazard when improperly stored or disposed to the environment. In response to this concern, the pharmaceutical industry voluntarily established the Medications Return Program in November 1996.

- <http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/epd/epdpa/ips/meds/index.html>



In Summary...

- We need a comprehensive U.S. solution to pharmaceutical waste management
 - It should not be left up to local government to solve, fund
- Product stewardship approach is essential
 - Retail take-back or mail-in, manufacturers pay
- EPA and DEA must provide leadership, help solve this national problem





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