



## ***A medication disposal solution for community pharmacies***

### ***Purpose of TakeAway***

Medication disposal practices commonly used today compromise the integrity of water supplies. Unused and expired drugs pile up in home medicine cabinets, which increase the likelihood for teenagers, elderly, pets, or others to misuse or abuse them.

The *TakeAway* program aims to reverse these trends by providing the public with a safe, easy way to properly dispose of unwanted and expired medications. *TakeAway* uses community pharmacies across the state as take-back sites.

### ***How TakeAway Works***

Your patients can bring unwanted and expired medicines into a participating *TakeAway* pharmacy. The pharmacist will dispose of the returned medications into a *TakeAway* system, a waste bin specially designed to safely store discarded pharmaceutical products along with their packaging.

Once filled, the *TakeAway* system is sealed and shipped to a medication disposal facility where the entire *TakeAway* system and its contents are incinerated. This ensures unused and expired pharmaceuticals do not enter water supplies. In addition, the incineration facility used by the *TakeAway* program employs a waste-to-energy incineration process—meaning the energy produced by incineration is harnessed into electricity.

Some participating pharmacies also sell *TakeAway* envelopes, pre-addressed, pre-postage paid large envelopes that can be taken into the home, filled with unused and expired medicine, and mailed through the United States Postal Service to the disposal facility.

## **TakeAway™ FAQ's**

### **What is the *TakeAway* program trying to accomplish?**

Current pharmaceutical disposal practices contribute to contaminated water supplies and drug diversion. The *TakeAway* program aims to reverse this trend by utilizing community pharmacies to provide a safe, easy way to dispose of unwanted and expired medications.

### **What materials will my pharmacy receive upon signing up to participate in the *TakeAway* program?**

- Two 20 Gallon *TakeAway* Systems (cardboard receptacles)
  
- Marketing materials, including: counter display, window cling, fliers, bag stuffers, and press releases for local media, physicians and city staff.
  
- Business plan for sustaining the *TakeAway* program in your pharmacy

### **How does the *TakeAway* Environmental Return System work?**

Pharmacies can purchase 10 or 20 gallon *TakeAway* Systems—cardboard boxes specially designed as pharmaceutical waste. Patients and consumers bring in their unwanted or expired medications and hand them over to the pharmacist, who will insert them into the *TakeAway* System kept behind the counter. When the box is full the pharmacist seals it and hands it off to a UPS carrier. The *TakeAway* System is pre-paid and pre-addressed for the Sharps incineration facility in Carthage, Texas, where incineration is witnessed by law enforcement. Another option is that your pharmacy may choose to order the Mail Away envelopes. You can sale or give the Mail Away envelopes to your patients as a solution for medication waste disposal that they can do from home. The patient simply puts their unwanted medications in the pre-paid, pre-address envelope and puts it in the mail where it will be sent to the incineration facility in Carthage as well.

### **What items can be accepted into the *TakeAway* return system for disposal?**

Any pharmaceutical product, prescription or OTC, can be accepted for disposal, EXCLUDING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES. Medications in any dosage form and any type of packaging are allowed, provided the medications are not controlled substances.

**How long has Sharps treatment facility been in use?**

Sharps has a permitted facility, in use for 15 years. The facility is monitored and permitted to handle this waste in a responsible and environmentally sound manner.

**Does the incineration process used by Sharps convert waste into energy?**

Yes. Electricity is generated and harnessed for use from the incineration process. .

**How do I order additional *TakeAway* return systems?**

*TakeAway* systems (10 and 20 gallon boxes, envelopes) can be purchased by completing the form and fax to (713) 432 0555, email to [sharps@sharpsinc.com](mailto:sharps@sharpsinc.com) or call (800) 772-5657

**Are there are *TakeAway* products other than the 20 gallon *TakeAway* boxes?**

Yes. A 10 gallon *TakeAway* system is available as well as padded envelopes (9"x12") which pharmacies can sell to patients, who will fill them with medications from home, and mail directly to Sharps Compliance, Inc for incineration. Both products are pre-addressed and have pre-paid return shipping.

**How much do additional *TakeAway* systems cost?**

Please refer to the special sales prices available if you order before May 15, 2010.

**How can these ongoing costs be offset?**

A business plan developed by Sharps Compliance, Inc. is included with the free start-up materials, which offers several suggestions for building a business model around the *TakeAway* pharmaceutical disposal services. These suggestions include implementing a disposal fee based on any number of parameters such as volume, weight, or quantity. In addition, participating pharmacies will benefit financially from offering the unique services of the *TakeAway* program through increased foot traffic in your pharmacy.

**Can I track *TakeAway* return system shipments through UPS?**

Yes. Not only are filled *TakeAway* systems able to be tracked during return shipment to Texas, but additional *TakeAway* system purchases can be tracked as they are shipped to your pharmacy.