

Drug Take Back Programs – Pollution Prevention Focus

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Summary

- Pharmaceuticals in water and wastewater
 - Many unanswered questions...
 - Pollution prevention always first step



Why Drug Take Back?

- Reduce avoidable poisonings
 - Children & adults
- Prevent prescription drug abuse & addiction
 - Mostly teens
- Protect water quality



Why?



- **Reduce avoidable poisonings**
 - For Oregon children poisoning is the 2nd leading cause of injury hospitalization
 - Oregon hospitalization rate for unintentional poisoning for children under 18 increased 60% between 2000 and 2006
 - Much due to prescription medications

Why?

- **Prevent prescription drug abuse & addiction**
 - Misuse of prescription drugs only second to marijuana as nation's most prevalent illegal drug problem
 - Average number of people using pain relievers non-medically for the first time exceeds new marijuana users
 - Young people get drugs from family and friends



Why?

- USGS study found microcontaminants in 80% of the streams sampled
 - Included Oregon & Washington
 - Can't distinguish between flushed and excreted
- Detected in landfill leachate
 - Landfills often connect to POTWs
- Industry estimates 3% unused
 - New information higher...
 - Teleosis Institute study found 45% unused



Drug Take Back Programs Needed

- **How Hard Can
It Be?**



Regulatory Challenges for Controlled Drugs



- DEA Regulations
 - After being dispensed, controlled drugs can only be possessed by:
 - Patient
 - Law enforcement
 - Cannot be returned to a pharmacy

What Have Others Done?

- **Passed Legislation**

- **Maine**

- First state to pass
 - No funding associated
 - Mail back pilot
 - EPA grant

- **California**

- Integrated Waste Management Board responsibility
 - Identify model programs and report back by 2010

- **Iowa**

- Directed to complete pilot with existing funds (pending)

What Have Others Done?

- **Considered Legislation**
 - Washington
 - Product Stewardship type program
 - Pennsylvania
 - Required retail-based pharmacy take back
 - New York
 - Study and demonstration
 - Illinois
 - Pilot medicine return

Sampler of Other Programs

- Clark County (WA)
 - Controlled to Sheriff
 - Uncontrolled collected at drug retail
- Newberg (OR)
 - Long term care facilities
 - Uncontrolled and uncontrolled drugs included
 - Collaboration with law enforcement agency and waste hauler

Sampler of Other Programs

- Wisconsin
 - Pilot mail-back in partnership with reverse distributor
 - Uncontrolled only
- Great Lakes Earth Day
 - Goal – collect 1 million pills
 - Collected 4 million + pills
- East Bay MUD
 - Bay-wide collection event in 2006
 - Very expensive/difficult to manage

Other Programs

- Many one day collection events nationally
- Drop off sites at law enforcement
- Concerns
 - Difficult to sustain
 - Government funded
 - Don't compete with a flush

British Columbia



- Medicines Return program
- Virtually all BC pharmacies participate
 - 97% participation rate
- In 2006, collected 44,000 pounds
 - \$257,000 CN
- No incidents in the 10 years of the program operation
- Most drug companies that serve BC, serve Oregon & Washington

Washington

- PH:ARM Pilot
 - PH:ARM (Pharmaceuticals from Households: A Return Mechanism)
- Pilot started in 11/06
 - Group Health & Bartell Drugs
 - 11,000 pounds disposed to date
- Legislation planned for 2009 Session



Oregon Drug Take Back Program



- Stakeholder Group
 - Met from October 2006 to July 2007
 - Detailed research report
 - 111+ page report
 - Full report at www.oracwa.org
 - Recommendations for Oregon program
 - Pharmaceutical Research & Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) does not support
- Action Group
 - Developed legislative proposal

Stakeholder Process

- Examined regulatory framework
 - State and Federal
- Examined other programs
 - Clark County, Maine, San Francisco, Washington, BC
- Considered funding and organizational options
 - Responsible agencies, funding options
- Considered landfilling of unwanted drugs
 - Preferred option – White House Council, PhRMA
 - OSU review
- Developed recommendations
 - Product Stewardship Model

Recommendation Endorsements

- Oregon ACWA
- Oregon Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists
- Tri-County Water Resources Association
- Tualatin Valley Water District
- OR Water Utilities Council
- Medford Water Commission
- Council of Local Health Officials
- Oregon Board of Pharmacy
- Oregon DEQ and EQC
- Cities of Eugene, Gresham, & Portland
- Oregon Environmental Council
- Oregon Hospice Association
- Eugene Water & Electric Board
- Others...

2009 Legislative Concept

- Product Stewardship Model
 - Paid for/organized by drug companies
 - Pharmaceutical Research & Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) does not support
- Similar concept being forwarded in both Oregon and Washington
 - Based on successful British Columbia system

2009 Legislative Draft Concept

- Manufacturers that sell drugs in Oregon
 - Plan and implement a convenient return program



2009 Legislative Draft Concept

- Controlled and uncontrolled drugs
 - Homes, hospice, long term care
- Take all products, regardless of producer
- Convenient
 - Not one-day collection events
- No additional cost to participate
- Serve rural/urban areas equally well
- No additional law enforcement responsibilities
- Strong public education
- Proper destruction
 - DEQ approval

Model for Emerging Contaminants

- Leadership, collaboration with other stakeholders
 - Transparency
 - Clear communication
- Product stewardship model
 - Pollution prevention is answer
 - Increase public's awareness of chemical use

What Can You Do?

- Support Oregon Drug Take Back legislation in 2009 Session

