

6/8/2017

BOARD ANNOUNCES ADOPTION OF DRUG TAKE-BACK REGULATIONS

The California State Board of Pharmacy announces the formal adoption of comprehensive [regulations](#) establishing requirements for pharmacies that wish to establish prescription drug take-back services.

Under the board's regulations, pharmacies are not required to provide drug take-back services. However, for those pharmacies that do, these regulations establish requirements that are based upon U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) requirements.

The board's goal is to fight prescription drug abuse by increasing options for the public to safely dispose of unwanted, unused or outdated prescription medications. Besides reducing the supply of prescription drugs – including controlled substances – available for misuse or abuse, providing collection receptacles and/or mail-back envelopes for customers helps protect the environment.

“These regulations reflect the board's highest priority – protection of the public,” board President Amy Gutierrez said. “The regulations also will enable pharmacies to provide an important and convenient service for customers who wish to dispose of unwanted prescription medications safely.”

The board has added Article 9.1, Prescription Drug Take-Back Services, to Division 17 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR). Section 1776 of the new article authorizes retail pharmacies, hospitals/clinics with on-site pharmacies, distributors and reverse distributors to offer or participate in take-back services. Section 1776.1 sets out registration, notification and operating requirements for pharmacies offering take-back services.

Sections 1776.2 and 1776.3 regulate the use of mail-back envelopes and collection receptacles in pharmacies. Sections 1776.4 and 1776.5 specify requirements for pharmacies offering take-back services in skilled nursing facilities and for reverse distributors who accept and handle sealed liners from collection receptacles. Section 1776.6 establishes record-keeping requirements for all board licensees providing take-back services.

Besides using pharmacy take-back services, the public may take unwanted prescription drugs – including controlled substances – to collection sites authorized by the DEA, which maintains an [online search page](#) of public disposal locations. The DEA also sponsors biannual [drug take-back days](#) at locations nationwide. In addition, local law enforcement agencies often sponsor drug take-back events.

Links to information about take-back services is available on the [Drug Take-back](#) page at the Board of Pharmacy [website](#).

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