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### BuckeyeHealthPlan.com

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> Medication Safety & Disposal



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## **Proper disposal of medication**

When medication is no longer needed or expired, it should be disposed of quickly and safely to help reduce the risk that others may accidently take or misuse the medication.

# The recommendations for disposal of unused or expired medication is:

- Never flush or pour down the drain, unless a medication is recommended for disposal by flushing. Check the label or patient information leaflet with your medication.
- Contact your city or county government for local drug take-back programs
- Contact your local police or fire station to see if they take back medications
- Remove from original containers and mix (do not crush tablets or capsules) with something undesirable, such as used coffee grounds, cat litter, or dirt. Place in something you can close such as zip lock bag, empty can, or container and throw in the garbage. Scratch out personal information.
- Disposal of Fentanyl patches: follow instructions on label for flushing
- Disposal of inhaler products: read handling instructions on the labeling of inhalers and aerosol products. To properly dispose of these products and follow local regulations and laws, contact your trash and recycling facility

For more information on the disposal of unused medication visit the following webpage from the Food & Drug Administration:

#### https://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ ConsumerUpdates/ucm101653.htm

#### Examples of safe sharps disposal include:

- Disposal of needles, syringes, and lancets: Place in a sharps disposal container immediately after use.
- Drop box or supervised collection sites such as doctor offices, hospitals, police or fire stations
- Local public household hazardous waste collection sites
- Mail-back programs: follow manufacturer's instructions on disposal container
- Your community may provide special waste pick-up services
- Please visit https://takebackday.dea.gov/ for state guidelines and disposal locations near you
- Check with your local trash removal services or health department

Ask your local provider or pharmacist about Prescription Drug Disposal or visit the following websites:

#### National Prescription Drug Takeback Day https://takebackday.dea.gov/

Find a drop box location near you: http://rxdrugdropbox.org

