

IE5: MEDICATION DESTRUCTION

Policy

Discontinued medications and medications left in the facility after a resident's discharge, which do not qualify for return to the pharmacy for credit, are destroyed.* Destruction methods comply with federal and state laws and regulations, including the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) guidelines for medication destruction. (http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/publications/pdf/prescrip_disposal.pdf)

Procedures

- A. Unused, unwanted and non-returnable medications should be removed from their storage area and secured until destroyed.
- B. Medications should not be flushed down the toilet or drain unless the package insert specifically instructs you to do so (i.e., fentanyl patches).
- C. Options to dispose of non-flushable prescription drugs include*:
 - 1) The facility may be able to take advantage of a community take-back program or other program that collects drugs at a central location for proper disposal
 - 2) If a drug take-back or collection program is not available:
 - a. Remove medications from their original containers.
 - b. Mix drugs with an undesirable substance, such as cat litter or used coffee grounds.
 - c. Put the mixture into a disposable container with a lid, such as a 5-gallon bucket, or into a sealable bag. Place in an opaque bag and dispose in the trash.
 - d. Dispose of drug packaging in the trash, making sure that no resident identifiers are on the labels.
 - 3) If neither of the above options are feasible, the facility may engage a reverse distributor to pick up the unwanted, unused medications.
 - 4) Employ a mail-back program for pharmaceutical waste.
- D. The provider pharmacy is contacted if the facility is unsure of proper disposal methods for a medication.
- E. Medication destruction occurs only in the presence of at least two licensed healthcare professionals or according to regulation and applicable law.

- F. The licensed healthcare professionals witnessing the destruction ensure that the following information is entered on the **Drug Disposition form**:
- 1) Date of destruction.
 - 2) Resident's name.
 - 3) Name and strength of medication.
 - 4) Prescription number, if applicable.
 - 5) Amount of medication destroyed.
 - 6) Signatures of witnesses.
- G. The Drug Disposition form is kept on file in the facility according to facility policy, regulations or applicable law. If hazardous waste is included, records must be maintained for three years. (For controlled substance destruction, See IE1: CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE DISPOSAL)