



The Maryland State Medical Society

News: For Immediate Release
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DEA NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY – SEPTEMBER 26

BALTIMORE, September 23, 2015—The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is having a nationwide prescription drug take-back day on Saturday, September 26, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of medications. For more information about this event, and to find a take-back location near you, you can visit the DEA webpage (http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/).

Over the last 8 years these Take-Back events, the DEA and its partners have taken in over 3.4 million pounds—more than 1,700 tons—of pills.

Gene M. Ransom, III, MedChi CEO, states “MedChi, The Medical Society, encourages all Marylanders to participate in this program. This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines—flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash—both pose potential safety and health hazards.”

The Alliance to MedChi has had an ongoing Safe Disposal of Medicine project to promote Drug Abuse Prevention, Environmental Protection, and Identity Theft Prevention. The project encourages people to get unneeded medicine out of the home as quickly as possible either through "take back" programs or through proper preparation and disposal in the trash.

About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. Formed in 1799, it is still the largest physician organization in Maryland today. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit www.medchi.org.