



The Maryland State Medical Society

News: For Immediate Release

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DEA NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY – OCTOBER 26

BALTIMORE, October 22, 2019—MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is supporting The Drug Enforcement Administration’s (DEA) nationwide prescription drug take-back day on Saturday, October 26, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day will give the public an opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Find a site near you by visiting www.dea.gov. (The DEA cannot accept liquids or needles or sharps, only pills or patches.) The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

According to the DEA website, Americans turned in 469 tons (over 937,000 pounds) of prescription drugs at over 6,200 sites operated by the DEA and more than 4,900 of its state and local law enforcement partners at the last Take-Back Day in April. Overall, all previous Take Back events have taken in over 11.8 million pounds—about 5,900 tons—of pills.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. 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.

Gene M. Ransom, MedChi CEO, spoke at a press conference today in Howard County with County Executive Calvin Ball to bring attention to the day. Ransom stated “MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, encourages all Marylanders to participate in this program. This initiative can help address the opioid crisis which is a crucial public safety and public health issue.”

For more information about the disposal of prescription drugs or about the October 26 Take Back Day event, go to <https://takebackday.dea.gov/>.

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.