



The Maryland State Medical Society

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DEA NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY – APRIL 26TH

BALTIMORE, April 25, 2014—The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is having a nationwide prescription drug take-back day on Saturday, April 26, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This will be the eighth opportunity in three years for the public to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. For more information about this event you can visit the DEA webpage (www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback).

Last October, Americans turned in 324 tons (over 647,000 pounds) of prescription drugs at over 4,114 sites operated by the DEA and its thousands of state and local law enforcement partners. When those results are combined with what was collected in its seven previous Take Back events, DEA and its partners have taken in over 3.4 million pounds—more than 1,700 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.

The Alliance to MedChi also has 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.

Gene M. Ransom, III, MedChi CEO, states “As always, MedChi, The Medical Society, encourages all Marylanders to participate in this program to prevent these drugs from being ingested and to protect our environment.”

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.