



The Maryland State Medical Society

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DEA NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY – OCTOBER 22

BALTIMORE, October 19, 2016—The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is having a nationwide prescription drug take-back day on Saturday, October 22, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day will give the public its 12th opportunity in six years to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their 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.

Last April, Americans turned in 447 tons (over 893,000 pounds) of prescription drugs at almost 5,400 sites operated by the DEA and more than 4,200 of its state and local law enforcement partners. Overall, in its 11 previous Take Back events, DEA and its partners have taken in over 6.4 million pounds—about 3,200 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, states “MedChi, The Medical Society, encourages all Marylanders to participate in this program. This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue.”

The Alliance to MedChi also 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.

For more information about the disposal of prescription drugs or about the October 22 Take Back Day event, go to the DEA Diversion website.

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.