



The Maryland State Medical Society

News: For Immediate Release

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DEA NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY – OCTOBER 24

BALTIMORE, October 19, 2020—MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is supporting The Drug Enforcement Administration’s (DEA) nationwide prescription drug take-back day on Saturday, October 24, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day gives the public an opportunity to help prevent pill misuse and theft by clearing homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription medications. People can find a site near them by [clicking here](#) and searching by zip code. Please note that the DEA cannot accept liquids or needles or sharps, only pills or patches. This service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

The April 2020 event was cancelled due to COVID-19, but according to the DEA website, Americans turned in close to 441 tons (over 882,000 pounds) of prescription drugs at over 6,100 sites operated by the DEA and almost 4,900 of its state and local law enforcement partners at the last Take-Back Day on October 16, 2019. Overall, all previous Take Back events have taken in over 12.6 million pounds—about 6,300 tons—of pills.

Rates of prescription medication misuse in the U.S. continue at alarmingly high levels, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that the majority of misused prescription medications are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. It has been advised that previous methods for disposing of unused pills—flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash—both pose potential safety and health hazards.

Yngvild Olsen, M.D. co-chair of MedChi’s Addiction Committee, states “MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is dedicated to their mission to serve as Maryland’s foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients, and the public health. This medication take back initiative is one tool in the toolkit to help address the ongoing opioid crisis – a crisis that has taken on even more urgency now during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

For more information about the disposal of prescription medications or about the October 24 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.