

Overview of Pharmaceutical Stewardship Policies

How Medicine Take-Back Programs Work



Under a pharmaceutical stewardship policy, the companies that make the medicines finance and operate the medicine take-back program. This relieves the burden on local government and law enforcement, and provides sustainable funding for a more convenient program for consumers.

Some of The Stakeholders



Pharmaceutical Producers make prescription and over-the-counter drugs, both brand name and generic. They are required to provide a secure, convenient medicine take-back program meeting requirements of county law and in compliance with federal and state laws. Typically, each producer contributes money to a stewardship organization that operates the program.



Stewardship Organizations work on behalf of producers to plan, organize, finance, coordinate and promote collection of medicines at secure drop boxes. Collected medicines are securely transported and properly disposed of at a permitted high temperature incineration facility.



Pharmacies can volunteer to host a secure drop box provided by the producers' program. Hospitals, police, and other qualified collectors can also host a drop box.



Consumers drop off unused medicines in secure boxes located at pharmacies, hospitals, and police stations. Producers cannot charge a fee for secure disposal when medicines are purchased or returned.



Snohomish Health District staff review stewardship plans, provide oversight of the approved plans, and work with other local partners and cities to help promote the program.

This overview is a simplified description of the proposed pharmaceutical stewardship policy for Snohomish County. To learn more, please visit www.snohd.org.

