

## LOCAL SECURE MEDICINE RETURN REGULATIONS:

# PARTICIPATING AS A COLLECTION SITE

Local Boards of Health in four Washington counties - **King, Snohomish, Kitsap, and Pierce** – have adopted Secure Medicine Return regulations to establish county-wide drug take-back programs that are financed and coordinated by pharmaceutical manufacturers. Additional WA counties are considering similar ordinances, and more than ten counties in California and other states have passed similar local laws.

The manufacturers' MED-Project program launched in King County in late 2016, providing more than 80 secure drop boxes at pharmacies, clinics, hospitals, and local law enforcement agencies. Program launches are anticipated in Snohomish, Kitsap, and Pierce counties later in 2017, or early 2018, after each local health department reviews the program plan proposed by the manufacturers.

**Under the regulations, drug manufacturers are responsible for costs of collection supplies, transportation and safe destruction of collected medicines, promotion, and program administration.**

**Participation by law enforcement and pharmacies is voluntary.**

**Law enforcement agencies and any qualified pharmacy, hospital can "opt in" to host a secure drop box.**

Collectors must follow all security requirements of the DEA's regulations, as well as other applicable federal and state laws.

If any areas are underserved by collection sites, the manufacturers must provide pre-paid return mailers or provide collection events through agreements with local law enforcement.

**Learn more about participating as a collector at [medicinereturn.org](http://medicinereturn.org)**

### King County MED-Project

Medication Education & Disposal

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**Law enforcement agencies interested in hosting a kiosk are invited to call (844) 677-6532 or email [kingcounty@med-project.org](mailto:kingcounty@med-project.org) for more information.**

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**MED-Project offers free, safe, and convenient kiosks for disposing of unwanted medicine from households. County residents deposit their unwanted medicine in kiosks at collection sites, including:**

- Law enforcement agencies, satellite offices and substations
- Pharmacies
- Hospitals and clinics with onsite pharmacies

**✚ Eligible collection sites must provide space for a secure kiosk in a location that is:**

- Inside law enforcement's physical address
- Accessible during regular business hours

**✚ Collection sites must also:**

- Authorize one or more employees to maintain keys to the drop-slot and door of the kiosk
- Lock the drop-slot when the site is closed
- Provide storage and records in the same manner as for illicit controlled substances

**✚ At no cost, MED-Project will provide:**

- A fully assembled kiosk with signage
- Kiosk installation (fastening to a permanent structure) and maintenance
- Secure medicine collection, transport, and destruction

**✚ MED-Project ensures:**

- Preparation and availability for collection, maintenance, urgent, emergency, and major event response
- A hotline for collection site questions, requests, and collection schedule adjustments



**Kiosks are designed with safety and security features:**

- Two locks on access door and lockable drop-slot
- Keys that cannot be copied
- A bright red light alerts you when the box is full and needs to be emptied
- Anti-tamper protection virtually closes off access to interior of cabinet when drop-slot is open
- Fastened to floor in permanent and compliant location

**Kiosk size and capacity:**

- Outside dimensions are 19" x 20" x 47" tall
- 33-gallon capacity
- Drop-slot opening can accommodate bottles 6" in diameter and 12" tall

For more information about Secure Medicine Return policies, contact Margaret Shield at 206-499-5452 or [margaret.shield@CEHstrategies.com](mailto:margaret.shield@CEHstrategies.com). [www.CEHstrategies.com](http://www.CEHstrategies.com)



# Supporters of WA Secure Drug Take-back Legislation – SHB 1047



Every community in Washington State needs secure and convenient medicine drop-off sites for getting unwanted and expired medicines safely out of our homes.

Secure collection of unwanted medicines reduces risks of misuse, poisonings and overdoses. Secure drug take-back is a key part of a comprehensive strategy to prevent addiction to opioids and other medicines. Safe take-back prevents waste medicines from entering sewer, septic, and solid waste systems and contributing to pharmaceutical pollution. But there aren't enough convenient medicine take-back programs in our state and existing programs are under-funded and not convenient enough.

Statewide legislation to establish a secure and convenient medicine take-back system for household medicines should mirror the local Secure Medicine Return ordinances that have been carefully developed and are being implemented in King, Snohomish, Pierce, and Kitsap counties.

The following organizations and agencies support SHB 1047 to create a secure and convenient drug take-back program that:

- ✓ **Expands secure medicine disposal options** to reduce risks of medicine poisonings, misuse, and environmental pollution.
- ✓ **Improves convenience for residents** by providing secure drop boxes in pharmacies and hospitals, as now allowed under the DEA Rule for take-back of controlled substances.
- ✓ **Ensures financial sustainability** through a system the pharmaceutical industry funds and coordinates, relieving burdens on law enforcement, local agencies, and taxpayers.

**ARNPs United of WA**

**Association of WA Cities**

**City of Bellingham**

**End of Life WA**

**Forefront: Innovations in Suicide Prevention at U.W.**

**Home Care Association of WA**

**Kitsap Public Health District**

**Peninsula Community Health Services**

**Prevention Works in Seattle Coalition**

**SEIU Healthcare 1199NW**

**Sierra Club – WA State Chapter**

**Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department**

**Vashon Alliance to Reduce Substance Abuse**

**WA Academy of Physician Assistants**

**WA Association of Area Agencies on Aging**

**WA Association of Community and Migrant Health Centers**

**WA Association of Sewer & Water Districts**

**WA Association for Substance Abuse & Violence Prevention**

**WA Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs**

**WA Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics**

**WA Chapter - American College of Emergency Physicians**

**WA East Asian Medicine Association**

**WA Environmental Council**

**WA Poison Center**

**WA State Association of Local Public Health Officials**

**WA State Council of Fire Fighters**

**WA State Dental Association**

**WA State Hospice and Palliative Care Organization**

**WA State Hospital Association**

**WA State Nurses Association**

**WA State Medical Association**

**WA State Senior Citizens' Lobby**

**Zero Waste WA**



The **WA Secure Medicine Take-Back Coalition** is organizations, agencies, and individuals working to protect our families and our environment by supporting secure medicine return programs and pharmaceutical stewardship policies.

Follow us on **FaceBook @WASecureMedTake-back**. See Resources & FAQs online at <http://bit.ly/SecureMedTakeBack>

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