



Frequently Asked Questions for

SWANCC's Pharmaceutical Drugs and Sharps Disposal Program *Updated 7-14-09*

Why is SWANCC sponsoring a program for pharmaceutical drugs and sharps?

A drop-off program can ensure environmentally-safe disposal and guard against potential theft associated with disposing of old medications. The program is for residentially-generated unused prescriptions, expired over-the-counter drugs, and needles known as "sharps".

Who is allowed to participate?

This program is for any resident that lives in one of SWANCC's 23-member communities (see list below). The program does not accept medication/sharps waste from businesses, schools or hospitals.

SWANCC's Member Communities

Arlington Heights	*Inverness	Prospect Heights
Barrington	Kenilworth	*Rolling Meadows
Buffalo Grove	Lincolnwood	Skokie
Elk Grove Village	Morton Grove	*South Barrington
Evanston	*Mount Prospect	Wheeling
Glencoe	Niles	Wilmette
*Glenview – sharps only	*Palatine	Winnetka
Hoffman Estates	Park Ridge	

***Not Participating**

What materials can be accepted?

Only over-the-counter medications, prescription medications (not including pharmaceutical controlled substances), and sharps. Pharmaceutical controlled substances are not accepted.

What are pharmaceutical controlled substances and why are they not being collected?

The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) classifies certain pharmaceuticals as controlled substances because of the potential for abuse or addiction. Such drugs generally include narcotics, stimulants, depressants, hallucinogens, anabolic steroids and cannabis. A list of common controlled substances is attached.

The DEA's authority to regulate pharmaceutical controlled substances is derived from the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) 21 U.S.C. §§ 801-971. The CSA mandates that the DEA prevent, detect and investigate the diversion of legally manufactured controlled substances while, at the same time, ensuring that there are adequate supplies to meet the legitimate medical needs in the United States. Federal law does not permit the collection of pharmaceutical controlled substances.

The most common controlled substances include (see end of this document for more):

Actiq® (fentanyl citrate)
Tequin® Tablets (gatifloxacin)
Daytrana™ Transdermal Patch (methylphenidate)
Zerit® for Oral Solution (stavudine)
Duragesic® Transdermal System (fentanyl)
Meperidine HCl tablets
Oxycontin® (Oxycodone)
Reyataz® Capsules (atazanavir sulfate)
Avinza® capsules (morphine sulfate)
Xyrem® (Sodium oxybate)
Baraclude® tablets (entecavir)
Fentora® (fentanyl buccal tablet)
Percocet® (oxycodone and acetaminophen)

How do residents dispose of pharmaceutical controlled substances?

The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy recommends the following:

1. Take your prescription drugs out of their original containers.
2. Mix drugs with an undesirable substance, such as cat litter or used coffee grounds.
3. Put this mixture into a disposable container with a lid, such as an empty margarine tub, or into a sealable bag.
4. Conceal or remove any personal information, including Rx number, on the empty containers by covering it with black permanent marker or duct tape, or by scratching it off.
5. Place the sealed container with the mixture, and the empty drug containers, in the trash.

For more information visit www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov.

How can a resident get a sharps container for home?

Any resident that lives in a SWANCC-member community and administers home-injections is eligible to receive a 1 qt. sharps container for free. Residents can obtain a container from the designated pharmaceutical waste and sharps drop-off site in their community. These containers are provided by SWANCC at no cost.

What happens when a resident's sharps container is full?

When a SWANCC-sponsored sharps container is full, the resident needs to take it back to the designated pharmaceutical waste and sharps drop-off site in their community.

Can a resident drop-off sharps not in a SWANCC-sponsored container?

Yes, but with restrictions. If you have stored up sharps in your own containers, be sure to put the sharps in a sealed, rigid container (like a laundry detergent bottle) or a coffee can with the lid taped. Additionally, the containers must be placed in a zip lock bag.

Why shouldn't prescription drugs be flushed down the toilet or sink?

Recent research conducted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Geological Survey found substantial amounts of antibiotics and steroidal hormones in rivers, lakes and wells from samples analyzed in 36 states. For more information, visit www.epa.gov/nerlesd1/chemistry/pharma.

What are the dangers of putting used needles in the trash?

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, each year, 8 million people use more than 3 billion needles, syringes, and lancets – also called sharps – to manage medical conditions at home. Some sharps users throw their used needles in the trash or flush them down the toilet. Used sharps left loose among other waste can hurt sanitation workers during collection rounds, at sorting and recycling facilities and at landfills, or become lodged in equipment, forcing worker to remove them by hand. Children, adults and even pets are also at risk for needle-stick injuries when sharps are disposed improperly at home or in public settings. For more information, visit www.epa.gov/osw.

Common DEA Controlled Substances

SUBSTANCE	DEA #	CSA Schedule	Narcotic?	OTHER NAMES
1-Androstenediol (3beta,17beta-dihydroxy-5alpha-androst-1-ene; 3alpha,17beta-dihydroxy-5alpha-androst-1-ene)	4000	III	N	
1-Androstenedione (5alpha-androst-1-en-3,17-dione)	4000	III	N	
1-Testosterone	3999	III	N	
Acetorphine	9319	I	Y	
Acetylcodone	9050	I	Y	
Acetyldihydrocodeine	9051	I	Y	Acetylcodone
Acetylmethadol	9601	I	Y	Methadyl acetate
Adaphol	9310	I	Y	
Adipex-P	1642	IV	N	
Alfentanil	9737	II	Y	Alfenta
Alphamethadol	9605	I	Y	
Alurate	2099	III	N	
Ambien	2782	IV	N	
Amexate	1577	IV	N	
Amobarbital	2125	II	N	Amytal, Tuinal
Amphetamine	1103	II	N	Dexedrine, Adderall, Obetrol
Amytal	2123	II	N	
Anabolex	3996	III	N	
Anorexic	1576	IV	N	
Barbital	2145	IV	N	Veronal, Plexonal, barbitone
barbitone	2144	IV	N	
Betameprodine	9608	I	Y	
Bromazepam	2748	IV	N	Lexotan, Lexatin, Lexotanil
Butalbital with aspirin	2099	III	N	
Camazepam	2749	IV	N	Albego, Limpidon, Paxor
Centrax	2763	IV	N	
Chloral hydrate	2465	IV	N	Noctec
Chlorphentermine	1645	III	N	Pre-Sate, Lucofen, Apsedon, Desopimon
Clonazepam	2737	IV	N	Klonopin, Clonopin
Clonopin	2736	IV	N	
Clorazepate	2768	IV	N	Tranxene
Clortermine	1647	III	N	Voranil
Codeine	9050	II	Y	Morphine methyl ester, methyl morphine
Codeine preparations - 200 mg/100 ml or 100 gm		V	Y	Cosanyl, Robitussin A-C, Cheracol, Cerose, Pediacof
Concerta	1721	II	N	
Darvocet	9276	IV	Y	
Darvon	9275	IV	Y	
Deca-Durabolin	3998	III	N	
Delorazepam	2754	IV	N	
Demerol	9227	II	Y	
Desomorphine	9055	I	Y	

Common DEA Controlled Substances

SUBSTANCE	DEA #	CSA Schedule	Narcotic?	OTHER NAMES
Dexedrine	1100	II	N	
Dianabol	3996	III	N	
Diazepam	2765	IV	N	Valium, Diastat
Diconal	9621	I	Y	
Didrex	1227	III	N	
Dihydrocodeine	9120	II	Y	Didrate, Parzone
Durabolin	3999	III	N	
Duragesic	9797	II	Y	
Endocet	9140	II	Y	
Estazolam	2756	IV	N	ProSom, Domnamid, Eurodin, Nuctalon
Halazepam	2762	IV	N	Paxipam
Hydrocodone	9193	II	Y	dihydrocodeinone
Isomethadone	9226	II	Y	Isoamidone
Ketaset	7282	III	N	
Ketazolam	2772	IV	N	Anxon, Loftran, Solatran, Contamex
Klonopin	2735	IV	N	
Loprazolam	2773	IV	N	
Lorazepam	2885	IV	N	Ativan
Lysergic acid	7300	III	N	LSD precursor
Medazepam	2836	IV	N	Nobrium
Meperidine	9230	II	Y	Demerol, Mepergan, pethidine
Methylphenidate	1724	II	N	Concerta, Ritalin, Methylin
Midazolam	2884	IV	N	Versed
Nandrolone (17beta-hydroxyestr-4-en-3-one)	4000	III	N	Deca-Durabolin, Durabolin, Durabolin-50
Nicocodeine	9309	I	Y	
Nimetazepam	2837	IV	N	Erimin
Nitrazepam	2834	IV	N	Mogadon
Nobrium	2835	IV	N	
Opium extracts	9610	II	Y	
Oxazepam	2835	IV	N	Serax, Serenid-D
Oxazolam	2839	IV	N	Serenal, Convertal
Oxycodone	9143	II	Y	OxyContin, Percocet, Endocet, Roxicodone, Roxicet,
OxyContin	9138	II	Y	
Paraldehyde	2585	IV	N	Paral
Paxipam	2761	IV	N	
Pentobarbital	2270	II	N	Nembutal
Phentermine	1644	IV	N	Ionamin, Fastin, Adipex-P, Obe-Nix, Zantryl
Phenylacetone	8501	II	N	P2P, phenyl-2-propanone, benzyl methyl ketone
Pholcodine	9314	I	Y	Copholco, Adaphol, Codisol, Lantuss, Pholcolin
Prazepam	2764	IV	N	Centrax
Preludin	1630	II	N	
Promedolum	9645	I	Y	
Propacet	9277	IV	Y	

Common DEA Controlled Substances

SUBSTANCE	DEA #	CSA Schedule	Narcotic?	OTHER NAMES
Quaalude	2561	I	N	
Quazepam	2881	IV	N	Doral
Racemethorphan	9732	II	Y	
Ritalin	1722	II	N	
Roxicet	9142	II	Y	
Secobarbital	2315	II	N	Seconal, Tuinal
Sufentanil	9740	II	Y	Sufenta
Temazepam	2926	IV	N	Restoril
Tetrazepam	2886	IV	N	Myolastan, Musaril
Thebacon	9315	I	Y	Acetylhydrocodone, Acedicon, Thebacetyl
Thebaine	9333	II	Y	Precursor of many narcotics
Thiopental	2100	III	N	Pentothal
Triazolam	2887	IV	N	Halcion
Valium	2763	IV	N	
Valoron	9748	I	Y	
Versed	2883	IV	N	
Xanax	2881	IV	N	
Zantryl	1643	IV	N	
Zolpidem	2783	IV	N	Ambien, Ivadal, Stilnoct, Stilnox
Zyrem	2011	III	N	