



# MEDICATIONS RETURN PROGRAM

## Don't throw it out

*Take-it back  
to your nearest  
pharmacy,  
or find more  
information at*

The British Columbia Pharmacy Association have provided their expertise to promote and facilitate the recovery of unused or expired medications through pharmacies.

[www.healthsteward.ca](http://www.healthsteward.ca)

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## Did You Know?

All prescription drugs, as well as over-the-counter drugs and natural health products in oral dosage form, are now part of a new stewardship program the **BC Medications Return Program**.

## What is BCMRP?

The BC Medications Return Program is the safe and easy way to dispose of medications we all have in our homes. The purpose of the BCMRP is to recover drugs that are expired or no longer needed before they are disposed of in the garbage or poured down sewers and drains.

## Why Health Products

Keeping medicines around the house is not safe, especially if you have children/teenagers who could take the medicine by accident. Expired medications can be ineffective or even toxic. Prescription drugs, including over-the-counter medicines, can also be subject to reuse, misuse, theft and abuse. Flushing your medicines down the toilet or drain, or tossing them in the garbage, is not recommended.

## Securing Medications in the Home

Current child-resistant packaging, while helpful, is not alone sufficient to prevent children's/teens access to medications. You can have an immediate impact by securing all medications in the home in a safe and secure location which is out of sight.

## How do I dispose of medicines?

Just take the medications in their original containers (plastic bottles or blister packs, but not outer packaging), remove any personal identification, such as your name, and stop by one of our participating pharmacies across the province – you don't have to return your medications to the same pharmacy where you purchased them. Drop off your bag with the pharmacist. Not sure where to go? Visit [www.healthsteward.ca](http://www.healthsteward.ca) for the pharmacy nearest you.

## What happens to my medicines?

The BCMRP will ensure the safe and appropriate storage and disposal of all your medications, according to health and environmental regulations.

## What about needles, syringes or other sharps?

This program is for medications only, a sharp disposal program might be available as well, ask your pharmacist.

## Questions?

Call your pharmacist or send us an e-mail at [info@healthsteward.ca](mailto:info@healthsteward.ca)

## Who is HPSA?

Health Product Stewardship Association (HPSA) is a not-for-profit association funded and governed by the health products industries.



**HEALTH PRODUCTS  
STEWARDSHIP  
ASSOCIATION**