

County holding medication collection and disposal

Cumberland County Recycling & Waste Authority release

County holding medication collection and disposal event

April 6, 2009 -- The Cumberland County Recycling & Waste Authority is partnering with Dickinson College to offer a free unwanted and expired medication collection and disposal event on Saturday, May 2, 2009, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Current common medication disposal practices, such as flushing down the drain or toilet, are an emerging issue as studies continue to show trace amounts of pharmaceuticals in drinking water supplies across the country. While the comprehensive risks are still unclear, researchers are finding evidence that even extremely diluted concentrations of pharmaceutical residues harm fish, frogs, and other aquatic species in the wild and impair the workings of human cells in the laboratory.

Abuse, most notably by teenagers and young adults, of prescription and over the counter medications commonly found in homes is also an emerging issue. Removing unwanted and expired medications from the home helps to eliminate this abuse.

This event will offer an easy, anonymous, free and environmentally friendly disposal alternative for unwanted and expired medications for humans or pets commonly found in homes.

When/Where?

- Saturday, May 2, 2009, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Parking Lot, Kaufman Hall, Dickinson College, 400 West North Street, Carlisle, PA 17013

What can I bring?

- Unwanted and expired medications for humans or pets, both prescription and over-the-counter, in tablet, liquid, ointment, inhaler, powder, or patch form.

What can't I bring?

- DO NOT bring sharps, syringes, needles, thermometers, bandages, gauze pads, sun block, lipstick, deodorant, skin cream, and similar products. THESE MATERIALS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

How should I prepare my medications?

- Medications should remain in their original containers.
- Do not remove labels. Personal information (i.e. names, addresses) should be crossed out, but information about the medication should be legible.

What should I expect at the drop-off?

- To participate, you must bring acceptable materials to the parking lot of Kaufman Hall, Dickinson College on Saturday, May 2, 2009, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
- Drop off your unwanted and expired medications with the pharmacist working the event. You will see law enforcement officers and other people also working at the event. The reason law enforcement officers will be there is that, by law, only they can take possession of certain types of medications (i.e. Valium, Oxycontin, Percocet, codeine).
- You may leave after handing your medications to the pharmacist. No personal information will be collected.

What else do I need to know?

- All medications will be destroyed by incineration.
- There will be no refunds given for unwanted medications. No medications collected at the event will be resold or used.
- There is no charge to participate.
- The program is only available to homeowners. No businesses can participate.
- DO NOT flush unwanted or expired medications down the drain or toilet. This can lead to water contamination.
- NEVER give unwanted medicines to someone else to use.
- NEVER take a prescription that was prescribed for someone else.
- Having unwanted medications around the home presents a danger to children, guests, and pets. Now is the time to get rid of them.

Call the Cumberland County Recycling and Waste Authority at 717.240.6489 for more information about this event. The Cumberland-Perry Substance Abuse Coalition is a proud supporter of this medication collection and disposal event.

For more information about the Coalition, call 717.240.6300 and ask for Linda Doty.

Funds to support this initiative have been provided by the Cumberland County Recycling and Waste Authority, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the Capital Area Behavioral Health Collaborative.

U.S. Army War College Archives - News Article - 06 April 2009