



Safe Drug Disposal Tips

Goodbye to expired medications

This project was created as a course requirement for NUR4636C Clinical Reasoning and Personalized Nursing Care: Population Health

Why Is This Important?



Image from <https://pixabay.com/illustrations/search/medications/>

Improper disposal of unused medications can lead to environmental contamination. Some medications are hazardous in even the smallest amounts. Saving medications can lead to unintentional misuse and can leave family members vulnerable to overdose.



WHY SHOULDN'T I?

SAVE THEM?

- Keeping prescription medications is never recommended. The drug may have expired, it can be easily confused with other medications, and it has the potential to be stolen and misused.

FLUSH THEM?

- Flushing medications in the toilet or down the sink can contaminate the environment by getting into bodies of water.

THROW THEM AWAY?

- Placing medications in the trash makes it easy for children and pets to access them and can lead to accidental overdose.



What are take back programs?

Take back programs offer permanent sites where medication can be properly and safely disposed.



Do you have a drug take back option readily available?

YES

- Take your unused or expired medications to the closest take back program.
- <https://alachuacounty.us/Depts/SolidWaste/hwc/Pages/PharmaceuticalCollection.aspx>

NO

- Check the DEA website to see if its a flushable medication.
- <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/disposal-unused-medicines-what-you-should-know/drug-disposal-fdas-flush-list-certain-medicines>

Alachua county take back locations

*the list below includes the most popular locations, but not all of the options in Alachua County.

CVS

- 4354 N 23rd Ave Gainesville, FL

Wise's Pharmacy

- 708 SW 4th Ave Gainesville, FL

Alachua County Hazardous Waste center

- 5125 NE 63rd Ave Gainesville, FL

North florida Retirement Village

- 8000 NW 27th Blvd Gainesville, FL

Shands Outpatient Pharmacy

- 1600 SW Archer Rd Gainesville, FL

Publix Supermarket

- 5200 NW 43rd St. Gainesville, FL
- 3720 NW 13th St. Gainesville, FL
- 2755 SW 91st St. Gainesville, FL
- 4115 NW 16th Blvd. Gainesville, FL













Walgreens

- 1120 E. University Ave
- 1615 N.W. 13th St.
- 3909 NW 13th St
- 5171 N.W. 43rd St
- 2415 S.W. 75th St
- 7520 W Newberry Rd
- 9125 N.W. 39th Ave Gainesville, FL

(National Association of Boards of Pharmacy)



What types of medication do pharmacies take?

	Publix	CVS	Walgreens
Aerosol Cans and Inhalers			
Lotions or Liquids			
Prescription Pills			
Needles and Syringes			



Educating an Elderly Population

- This population may have limited access to transportation
 - Important to connect them with services or case managers to help them participate in drug take back programs
- Wording of educational materials should be easy to understand
 - Avoid the use of technical language and keep words as simple and concise as possible
- Take your time when explaining information
 - Answer any questions they may have
 - Speak slowly and allow them to respond at their own pace



Educating an Elderly Population Cont.



- Be aware of any disabilities your patient population may have
 - Visual Impairments
 - Handwritten instructions should be written with large, neat handwriting
 - Be aware of whether or not the older adult is able to see well enough to read and if they have corrective lenses



Educating an Elderly Population Cont.



- Hearing Deficits
 - Choose a quiet place to educate
 - Older adults may not be able to hear what you are teaching them in a loud environment
 - Ask if the person can hear you
 - Do they wear hearing aids? Are they wearing them now?
 - Face the person while speaking to them
 - Get on the same level by sitting if they are also sitting
 - Write down any important information for them to remember, including contact info and drug disposal locations
 - Do not yell to be heard

Alachua County Health Promotion and Wellness Coalition

Drug take back events occur every 6 months in April and October


If you have any questions, please visit the DEA Take Back Day Website for more information:
<https://takebackday.dea.gov/>

Contact Information:

- info@hpwcoalition.org
- 352-244-0628 ext. 3866
- 3615 SW 13th St Suite 4 Gainesville, FL 32608
- Facebook.com/HPWCoalition
- www.hpwcoalition.org



ALACHUA COUNTY
**Health Promotion
& Wellness Coalition**



With this information you can be prepared to answer any questions your patients may have and inform staff on how to have important conversations about drug take back programs



Resources

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (n.d.). *Tips for improving communication with older patients*. National Institute on Aging. Retrieved July 7, 2022, from <https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/tips-improving-communication-older-patients>

Thomas E. Robinson, I. I., George L. White, J., & Houchins, J. C. (2006, August 31). *Improving communication with older patients: TIPS from the literature*. Family Practice Management. Retrieved July 8, 2022, from <https://www.aafp.org/pubs/fpm/issues/2006/0900/p73.html>