

Post-Consumer Pharmaceutical Stewardship
Association

Medications Return Program News Bulletin



PCPSA February 2005

The *Medications Return Program* is an e-bulletin by PCPSA published on a quarterly basis with information on recent developments. All members can subscribe or unsubscribe by following the instructions at the end of this document.

SAMPLE SURVEY RESULTS

The survey commenced at the beginning of July and was carried through to the end of September. We sent out 70 containers, representing 10% of participating pharmacies throughout BC, we received 57 containers back. In December, PCPSA Executive Director, Ginette Vanasse, Bern Philip representing the brand name pharmaceutical and Julie Tam representing the generic pharmaceutical, traveled to BC to witness the opening and counting of medicines collected. One container would get opened and its content separated in three piles; self-care health products, prescriptions and uncertain. Ms. Tam identified the sector, confirmed by Mr. Philip for each prescription or self-care health products, then the producer/brand owners or private label company was identified. If identification of the latter was impossible it was counted in the proper sector under unknown or private label. The distribution of medications collected was the following; brand name pharmaceutical at 44.99%; generic pharmaceutical at 35.21% and self-care health products at 19.80% This ration will be used to calculate your sector share within the overall budget.

BC MEDICATIONS RETURN PROGRAM QUARTERLY REPORT

The following is an update on the program in British Columbia for the October-December 2004 period.

Collection Summary (actual):	Q4 - 2004	YTD 2004	Q4-2003	YTD 2003
Containers Shipped to Pharmacies	312	1413	247	1015
Containers Received from Pharmacies	333	1204	216	804
Weight of Pharmaceuticals (kg)	3 672	15 503	2 824	10 038

VARIA

- PCPSA has produced articles for a newspaper publicity campaign on the Medications Return Program in British Columbia, the article is available on the web site at: <http://www.medicationsreturn.ca/newspaper1.pdf>.
 - In 2003, Aventis Pharma, Johnson & Johnson and Merck Frost Canada were chosen for the ICI awards by Recyc-Québec. This award honors enterprises in the industrial, commercial and institutional sectors that put forward, on a voluntary basis, measurements allowing the reduction and elimination of residual waste through ecological management. If you wish to learn more please follow this link: http://www.recyc-quebec.gouv.qc.ca/client/fr/programmes-services/prog-reconnaissance/ici_tab_attestes.asp
 - Meetings with Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Waste Diversion Ontario and discussions with Recycle Québec took place last fall. It would be fair to report that Pharmaceutical Returns Programs are not in their short term plans for both the Ontario and Québec provincial government. Possible regulations for pharmaceutical return programs will not assist the Ministers in reaching their targets to reduce waste by 2008. However, we have witnessed an increase in newspaper articles or research on water quality and the presence of pharmaceuticals in drinking water. It is too early to draw any conclusions, but environmentally safe disposal programs are certainly needed.
 - *There is a vacancy on the Board for a representative for the brand name pharmaceutical sector, if you are interested, please contact the office.*
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FORTHCOMING FROM THE OFFICE

- Invoices for the Medications Return Program for 2005
 - Contacting Private Label companies for their contribution to the program
 - AGM and Board of Directors meeting in Toronto next May
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