



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.

PROVINCIAL UPDATE

BC Metro Vancouver Banned Medications from Curbside

A new restrictions affecting everyone in the Metro Vancouver area (21 municipalities) came into effect on January 1st, 2008; prescription and over-the-counter medications are now banned from curbside garbage and recycling bins. With the *Medications Return Program* in place, the public can take their expired and unused medications to their community pharmacy. Those who fail to comply with the new rules will be notified with a tag on the discarded garbage or asked to pay a fine. New inspectors will be monitoring the success of the program and will be enforcing the new banned and restricted materials rules.

“Pharmacies are part of an environmental initiative that takes health care one step further. Keeping our environment healthy is in everyone’s best interest,” says Marnie Mitchell, CEO of the BC Pharmacy Association. “I’m pleased that pharmacies throughout the province are available to offer this necessary service.”

MRP Quarterly Report

The following is an update on the *Medications Return Program* in British Columbia for the October to December 2007 period.

- Weight for the quarter is up by 14% from 2006. The number of containers received has increased by 21% from a year ago and the weight is up 17%.
- Overall, the program has grown more than expected and we anticipate the growth will be in the 25% range in 2008.
- Numerous requests for brochures and posters are now being received indicating more awareness of the program in B.C.

Collection Summary (actual):	Q4 - 2007	YTD - 2007	Q4 - 2006	YTD - 2006
Containers Shipped to Pharmacies	620	2,370	421	1,868
Containers Received from Pharmacies	523	2,129	433	1,708
Weight of Pharmaceuticals (kg)	5,618	23,384	4,947	19,995

Capital Regional District Prescription and Nonprescription Medications Return Campaign

As mentioned previously in this bulletin, Capital Regional District (CRD) is organizing a campaign to raise and maintain awareness of the *Medications Return Program*, and reduce the practice of disposing of medications in the sewer or household garbage. On December 5th, a meeting was held in Victoria, with pharmacy managers, government and CRD staff to review campaign objectives, stakeholder information and components for a successful campaign. The campaign launch will coincide with the *BC Pharmacy Association Awareness Week* in March 2008 and will include interviews as well as publicity in the print media. PCPSA will assist with promoting this event within the affected community pharmacies; provide feedback on the development of message and administrative support with the campaign.



MANITOBA Program Plan and Proposed Regulation

On December 19th PCPSA's Executive Director, Ginette Vanasse represented the pharmaceutical and self-care health products industries at meetings held in Winnipeg. An initial meeting with the *Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association (MPhA)*, to present the *Manitoba Medications Program Plan*, was well received. It was agreed to hold off future meetings until the regulation for pharmaceuticals products is passed by the government. The Annual General Meeting for the *Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association* held the second weekend in April would be one occasion to present the program to pharmacists. PCPSA has the support of the MPhA to assist with a smooth transition between the existing return program and the proposed *Medications Return Program* with the assistance of a committee that was struck by the MPhA when this regulation was first announced in 2005.

A second meeting was also organized with representatives from Green Manitoba and Manitoba Conservation to discuss the [Proposed Household Hazardous Material Stewardship Regulation Plan](#) and areas of concerns. The discussion covered environmental impacts, designation of material, definition of medications, containers, payment of salaries and costs to government and timeframe for setting up a program. Once Green Manitoba has completed the 30-day consultation and tabled the comments received, it will present a bill to parliament (Spring 2008).

FORTHCOMING FROM THE OFFICE

- 2008 invoices for *Medications Return Program* mailed to the primary or billing contact. Please ensure that this charge is paid for an essential program. You can always contact the office if you require more information of these charges.
 - Follow up on Manitoba HHW regulation.
 - Attending a National Workshop in Extended Producer Responsibility in Fredericton.
 - Newsletter to participating pharmacies in British Columbia
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*****Info & Feedback:**

Post-Consumer Pharmaceutical Stewardship Association (PCPSA) is a non-for-profit organization mandated with developing harmonized approaches to medications return programs in Canada. Questions or comments about this newsletter can be sent to info@medicationsreturn.ca. Please pass this newsletter on to those who may be interested.