

**Post-Consumer Pharmaceutical
Stewardship Association**

Medications Return Program News Bulletin



PCPSA February 2009

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

BRITISH COLUMBIA Spring Cleaning; Medication Return Program Awareness Day

On March 20, 2009, a public awareness campaign for the region of Metro Vancouver is being launched and coordinated by Metro Vancouver Regional District, the B.C. Pharmacy Association and PCPSA to identify the medication return program and its convenience for residents

The focus of the awareness campaign is to highlight the earth friendly drug disposal program that is managed by drug-retail stores in British Columbia. Through the Medications Return Program, drug stores in Metro Vancouver have an efficient way to collect unused and expired medications from patients – but key to its success is awareness. This collaborative effort is to identify the program to residents of this region, how it works, and the necessity of disposing of post consumer medications in a safe and well managed professional way.

MRP Quarterly Report

The following is an update on the *Medications Return Program* in British Columbia for the October to December 2008 period.

Collection Summary (actual):	Q4 - 2008	YTD - 2008	Q4 - 2007	YTD - 2007
Containers Shipped to Pharmacies	833	3,590	620	2,730
Containers Received from Pharmacies	830	3,255	523	2,129
Weight of Pharmaceuticals (kg)	9,068	35,704	5,618	23,384

- Weight for the quarter is up by 61% with the number of containers received up by 59% from 2007. On a year to year the weight is up 53% and the number of containers is up 52%. Activity is significantly higher than previous years.
- New larger rectangular containers were ordered to reduce volume and fuel surcharge.

ONTARIO *MHSW Program Plan Development*

As indicated in previous bulletins Ontario is currently developing a program plan under the Municipal Hazardous or Special Waste (MHSW) Regulation. The Minister of the Environment has identified **“Pharmaceuticals, including natural health products, as one of the category of obligated materials under the MHSW Regulation.**

PCPSA is representing its members on the newly formed *Steering Committee* for MHSW to oversee the program development of all 21 obligated material groups (including pharmaceuticals). The Steering Committee is responsible for the following:

- Oversee the consultation process
- Resolving technical, policy, legal and broad stakeholder issues
- Reviewing the draft plan

In addition, PCPSA will also be one of the industry representatives for the *Working Group* on Pharmaceuticals. This group of stewards will help the consultants (Steward Edge/CSR and PSTG Consulting) with:

- provide, validate, interpret data on product sales & quantities available for collection
- identify any inconsistencies and gaps in data
- identify and involve technical resources from the industry for input,
- identify existing diversion programs and options and their costs
- provide input on targets (accessibility, diversion) material fee rates, and other key program elements

It has been proposed that companies that make and/ or import *obligated materials* for distribution in Ontario will be required to pay a steward fee to Stewardship Ontario to operate the MHSW program. The program costs will cover collection, handling, transporting, processing and/or disposal of MHSW as well as any promotion, education and research and development costs. The overall goal of the program is to keep the obligated materials out of landfills and to divert it into 3R (reduce, reuse and recycle) solutions. The proposed plan must be approved by the Minister of the Environment and be posted on the Environmental Registry. Although the payment schedule is still to be determined, the medications return program is expected to be up and running by early 2010.

References:

- For MHSW Quick Facts and more information, please visit:
<http://www.stewardshipontario.ca/corporate/media.html>
 - For the January 14, 2009 meeting notes, please visit:
http://www.stewardshipontario.ca/mhsw/consultation/consultation_current.html
 - ***First Importer** means a person Resident in Ontario, who imports into Ontario, a specific product or good that is MSHW, for which a Brand Owner does not exist in Ontario. For detailed definition of brand owner and first importer, please visit:
http://www.stewardshipontario.ca/mhsw/pdf/rules/rules_2008_2009.pdf
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ACTION

PCPSA requested a meeting with the Minister to propose a Medications Return Program for the pharmaceutical category. The Minister suggested that PCPSA goes through the current consultation process and cooperate with Stewardship Ontario on the development of a MHSW program plan.

However, you can show your support by writing to Minister Gerretsen indicating the PCPSA with its membership base representing the pharmaceutical and consumer health products industries should be designated as the industry funding organization in Ontario. If your company and other stakeholders believe that expired and unused medications should be returned to community pharmacies for collection and disposal as opposed to the current proposal (which is to send them to municipal hazardous waste depots) you must act now. Under current requirements, Stewardship Ontario is the industry funding organization for all categories of municipal hazardous and special waste, and we believe that a more cost-effective program could be implemented outside the purview of Stewardship Ontario. PCPSA has been working with Canadian Association of Chain Drug Stores and Ontario Pharmacies Association to develop a Medications Return Program Plan in Ontario. For a more information, please contact the office at ginette.vanasse@medicationsreturn.ca

FORTHCOMING FROM THE OFFICE

- 2009 invoices for *Medications Return Program* mailed to the primary or billing contact. Please ensure that this bill is paid, late fees penalty (5%) will apply after 60 days. You can always contact the office if you require more information of these charges.
 - Participation in the MHSW Steering Committee and Working Group for pharmaceuticals in Ontario.
 - Newsletter to participating pharmacies in British Columbia.
 - Multi-Material Stewardship Board, responsible for developing, implementing, and managing waste diversion programs in Newfoundland and Labrador, contacted the office for more information on a Medications Return Program.
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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.