

PCPSA [www.medicationsreturn.ca](http://www.medicationsreturn.ca)

## **Question & Answers**

July 2007

### **What is PCPSA?**

The Post-consumer Pharmaceutical Stewardship Association is a not-for-profit organization with membership open to all brand-owners (first sellers) of medications.

A Board of Directors manages PCPSA, with representatives from the Canada's Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies, Canadian Generic Pharmaceutical Association or NDMAC-Advancing Canadian Self-Care.

### **Why is there concern for proper management of medications?**

With proper disposal system in place, we can protect the environment and prevent abuse.

### **Why was PCPSA formed?**

The British Columbia *Post-Consumer Residual Stewardship Program Regulation (PCRSPR)* was approved in Cabinet on March 26, 1997. This regulation required all brand-owners of medications sold in B.C. to provide a way for consumers to dispose of their unused or expired products in an environmentally responsible manner. The *PCRSPR* gave brand-owners until the end of that year to submit a program for approval by the Director or form an Association to develop a stewardship program on their behalf. It is industry that is responsible for collecting and disposing of medications and for collecting the funds required to manage the program. Only PCPSA has met this requirement.

### **What regulation is currently in place?**

Enacted on October 7, 2004, the *Recycling Regulation* completed the shift to results-based, extended producer responsibility and repealed the *Post-Consumer Residual Stewardship Program Regulation*. The new regulation includes core producer requirements applied to all programs, incorporates key provision of the repealed regulations and lists schedules for regulated product categories. The pharmaceutical product category is defined under the *Residual Product Categories* in Schedule 2 of the *Recycling Regulation* and is defined as all unused or expired medications, including natural health products and nonprescription drugs.

### **How will PCPSA represent me as a brand-owner under the *Recycling Regulation*?**

PCPSA submitted a Stewardship Program Plan to the Director of the Environmental Management Branch in Victoria on October 5, 2006, on behalf of brand-owners of medications in British Columbia. In March 2007, the Director approved the program plan subject to PCPSA providing a list of companies registered with PCPSA and confirming in writing that PCPSA will perform the

duties on behalf of these registered brand-owners. ***If brand-owners register with PCPSA by signing the enclosed Membership Agreement and pay their sector share, they are in compliance with the Recycling Regulation.***

**Who is required to participate in the program?**

All those brand-owners (first sellers) who sell medications in B.C. are required by provincial regulation to meet the requirements of the *Recycling Regulation*. This can be fulfilled by participating in the *Medications Return Program*

**What will PCPSA do?**

PCPSA's mandate is to administer a medications return program to facilitate and increase collection, management and safe disposal of medications in British Columbia through partnership with community pharmacies.

**Does the consumer pay for this program?**

No, there is no charge to the public or pharmacies for environmentally responsible disposal of medications.

**What will happen to medications that are returned?**

Participating pharmacies collect expired and unused medications from the public. All containers returned from a pharmacy are tracked by weight, pick-up date, location and stored in a secure location until a shipment is accumulated for safe destruction through a licensed incineration facility.