



The Medical Waste Reporter



Announcements for Wisconsin's Medical Waste Generators

Reporting year 2011

Issued January 2012

DNR Clarifies Status of P-listed Pharmaceutical Containers

In 2011, EPA issued an interpretation of hazardous waste regulations regarding containers that once held certain P-listed pharmaceuticals, and specifically, coumadin (warfarin), nicotine gum and patches, and physostigmine.

This may reduce the costs of managing waste and reduce paperwork for many healthcare facilities.

Because EPA has authorized DNR to run the federal hazardous waste program in Wisconsin, DNR may choose to affirm or be more strict than EPA.

DNR's hazardous waste program has issued a memo about P-listed pharmaceutical containers, affirming the EPA interpretation with one clarification, here: dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/wm/publications/aneupubWA1569.pdf

This interpretation relates to another DNR publication, "Managing Empty Containers," here: dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/wm/publications/aneupub/WA1256.pdf

→→ On a Related Topic

EPA has announced that **it will NOT pursue a universal waste approach to managing pharmaceuticals**. We expect more news on this in the spring of 2012.

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Congratulations, 2011 Practice Greenhealth Award Winners!

Environmental Leadership Circle:

Sacred Heart Hospital, Eau Claire
St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center, Green Bay
Gunderson Lutheran, LaCrosse

Partner for Change with Distinction:

St. Vincent Hospital, Green Bay

Partners for Change:

Bellin Hospital, Green Bay
[Columbia-St. Mary's Health System, Milwaukee](#)



**PRACTICE
Greenhealth
MEMBER**

Making Medicine Mercury Free:

Wm S. Middleton Memorial
Veterans Hospital, Madison

Partner Recognition:

Mercy Medical Center, Oshkosh
St. Elizabeth Hospital, Appleton

Winning an award can fuel all your environmental programs. For more information, visit www.practicegreenhealth.org/awards

Suggestions from Your Colleagues...

...from Line P of infectious waste annual reports.

- Create online training about waste management procedures. Include a quiz to reinforce learning and to assess future training needs.
- Have safety managers perform site inspections.
- Find fun ways to remind staff about recycling and proper waste segregation.
- Donate unused medical supplies to missions and equipment to another health care facility.
- Have a Waste Fair and sponsor a friendly contest during Earth Day week.
- Give waste updates to staff and management.

The two keys to reducing medical waste are frequent education & compliance checks

WH2E News

Wisconsin Healthcare for a Healthy Environment (WH2E) encourages sustainable healthcare business practices through educational programs and networking.

Sustainable practices promote employee and patient health and safety, are financially sound, and protect and preserve the environment.

WH2E will sponsor a meeting on “**Continuous Quality Improvement – Case Studies and Instruction**” in Madison, on February 15, 2012. The meeting will also include **Pharmaceutical updates from the WI DNR**, with emphasis on non-hospital facilities.

Meetings in 2012 will be on **Food** (April 13th at Gunderson Lutheran in LaCrosse), **Building/Construction/Demolition** (likely June, mid-state), and an undetermined topic in October.

In 2011, WH2E addressed Pharmaceutical and Hazardous Waste Compliance, EPA/DNR Inspections, Electronics and Medical Supplies.

WH2E welcomes those who work in or support healthcare in Wisconsin, including caregivers, environmental services, facility managers, doctors, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, veterinarians, students, vendors, consultants, technical assistance providers and regulators.

To learn more about WH2E, visit www.wh2e.org/. To join WH2E or to offer your assistance in planning or hosting upcoming meetings, call Julie Schafer at 715-387-7136.

DNR STAFF CONTACTS:

Medical waste questions and to receive e-mail announcements about medical waste:

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dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/wm/medinf/

Pharmaceutical waste

dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/wm/pharm/pharm.htm

Mercury questions:

dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cea/mercury/program.htm

Healthy Food and Health Care are Complimentary

Do you wonder how to reduce food costs while preserving patient safety and quality of care? Or are you concerned about trends in childhood obesity or how your facility impacts the environment through the food choices it offers?



Here is a smorgasbord of ideas:

- Weigh and track food waste. Engage your staff to find out why food is disposed and why, then alter your production practices. Read how at www.beckershospitalreview.com/hospital-financial-and-business-news/8-out-of-the-box-ways-hospitals-can-cut-costs.html
- Put healthy snacks in vending machines.
- Ban bottled water and sugar-sweetened beverages. See “Hydrate for Health” at www.noharm.org/lib/downloads/food/HydrateForHealth.pdf.
- Host a farmer’s market for staff and patients.
- Buy locally grown fresh food.
- Serve in-patient food “room-service” style.
- Compost food waste. All Saints Hospital (Racine) found a way to convert food scraps to landscaping material in-house, described here: www4.uwm.edu/shwec/intern/projects/allsaints.cfm
- Sign on to EPA WasteWise’s “Food Recovery Challenge,” here: www.epa.gov/epawaste/partnerships/wastewise/challenge/foodrecovery/index.htm
- Take the “Balanced Menus Challenge” to reduce meat and poultry purchases by 20% in 12 mos. www.noharm.org/us_canada/issues/food/balanced_menus/challenge.php

For more ideas, visit Health Care Without Harm’s “Healthy Food Systems” issue page at www.noharm.org/us_canada/issues/food/ and review the Sustainable Guide on Food.

You might also want to attend the WH2E meeting in April (see this page) or “FoodMed” the nation’s premier conference on sustainable foods and the health care sector, which is usually held in the fall. www.foodmed.org

Pharmaceutical Waste: What's Happening

In addition to the two items on page 1, notice of the WH2E meeting in February on page 2 and new resources on page 4, we have this news to share:

Nationwide Rx Drug Take-Back Days The federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has collected over 497 tons of unwanted Rx drugs nationwide since the fall of 2010. In October 2011 alone, 9.91 tons came from Wisconsin.

The fourth DEA National Drug Take Back Day will be Saturday, April 30, 2011. Learn more at: www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/index.html

Veterinary Partnership The National Sea Grant College Program and the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) have partnered to raise awareness about storing and discarding unused medicines properly, not only to safeguard pets that might consume them, but also to protect human health and the environment.

Proposed Bill for Pharmaceutical Stewardship In September 2011, Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (D-NY) introduced a bill to streamline pharmaceutical waste disposal using a product stewardship approach. (See page 3 of the [2010 Medical Waste Reporter](#) for more information about product stewardship.)

New Rules from DEA In 2010, Congress required DEA to provide for additional take-back programs beyond only law enforcement. To learn more, see www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/non_registrant/s_3397.pdf. The DEA is expected to release draft rules in 2012 that allow for take-back of controlled substances and may authorize long-term care facilities to dispose of their current or former patients' controlled substances.

Guidance for Households and for those who collect household pharmaceutical waste in WI: www.dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/wm/pharm/household.htm

Household or non-household? Are nursing homes, community based residential facilities, residential care apartment complexes, assisted living, adult family homes and hospice care providers "households" or "non-households"? To find out, go to www.dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/wm/publications/aneupub/wa1214.pdf

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Pharmaceutical Waste Project The GLRI household drug mailback program, "Get the Meds Out!" collected over 2100 lbs. of drugs in only four months. It also gathered data that will inform future waste reduction efforts.



Meanwhile, **Pharmaceutical waste working groups in Midwest states** are developing sustainable strategies to reduce and manage unwanted pharmaceuticals. To learn more, go to the SHWEC Blog at fyi.uwex.edu/shwec/

"Key Elements of Pharmaceutical Collection and Disposal Programs: A Vision for the Great Lakes Region" is a consensus document written in late 2011. Organizations and individuals are encouraged to share and endorse this document. To read the Key Elements and see current endorsers, go to this site and click on the link: www.productstewardship.us/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=182

Pharmaceutical Collection Locations List To find one of the more than 90 permanent collection programs for household medications in Wisconsin or one of many one-day collection events, go to the UW Extension website, www4.uwm.edu/shwec/ Under "New!," click on "WI Medicine Collection Programs/Events."

WDNR Pharmaceutical Waste News This automated DNR email newsletter has an emphasis on pharmaceutical waste generated from households and on pharmaceuticals in the environment. To sign up, go to dnr.wi.gov/newsletters/ then click on the "subscribe" button in the upper right to see the complete list of newsletters and updates, choose what you want to receive, then click SAVE.

Regulatory Updates To learn about non-household (business and institutional) pharmaceutical waste, including the proposal for updating waste regulations for pharmaceuticals that EPA is expected to release in 2012, send an email to Barb Bickford (see contact box, page 2) and ask to join her technical assistance email list.

NEW RESOURCES

To learn about the latest resources throughout the year, join DNR's medical waste e-mail announcement list (see contact box on page 2).

Sustainability

The **International Facility Management Association (IFMA) Foundation's FREE Sustainability Guides** share examples of successfully-implemented sustainable practices. These guides can help you develop a business case or a Return on Investment analysis for facility sustainability. Currently, nine of twelve guides are available: Getting Started, EPA's Energy Star Portfolio Manager, Food Service Guide, No Cost/Low Cost Guide, Lighting Guide, Water Conservation and Sustainable Landscaping, Green Building Rating System and Turning Data Centers Green. Download them for free at:

www.ifmafoundation.org/research/how-to-guides.htm

Pharmaceutical waste

Center for Environmental Information Report "Pharmaceutical Pollution Prevention" tells how to reduce pharmaceutical waste in health care facilities such as urgent care centers, hospice operations, nursing homes and other long term care facilities. Here's the link.

www.ceinfo.org/resources/PharmaPollutionPreventionReport.pdf

The **Product Stewardship Institute** compiled recommendations for reducing pharmaceutical waste, after a national meeting in 2010.

www.productstewardship.us/associations/6596/files/Source_Reduction_Recommendations.pdf

Green Cleaning

The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**, concerned about healthcare-acquired pathogens (HAPs), has developed an **Environmental Cleaning Evaluation Toolkit**.

www.cdc.gov/HAI/toolkits/Evaluating-Environmental-Cleaning.html

Environmental Health

EnviRN Knowledge Network for nurses interested in environmental health is an active learning environment for nurses, and includes many resources, including a calendar for conferences, webinars and other events.

www.enviRN.org

Lighting

Money-saving lighting resources are available to support lighting upgrades. Some of these resources include the following:

- Energy codes www.dsireusa.org/
- LEED for Existing Buildings www.usgbc.org
- "Focus on Energy" offers rebates for energy saving lighting equipment and/or reductions in energy consumption.
www.focusonenergy.com/Incentives/
- The federal Commercial Buildings Tax Deduction offers an accelerated tax deduction up to \$0.30-\$0.60/sq.ft. for lighting upgrades under its Interim Lighting Rule
www.lightingtaxdeduction.org/
- Lighting manufacturers' support and expertise.
- The Lighting Controls Association offers free online education about lighting controls
www.aboutlightingcontrols.org
- The NEMA EnLIGHTen America provides general education and access to reputable manufacturers. www.nemasavesenergy.org

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