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- SUBJECT:** UNWANTED MEDICATIONS (PUBLIC)
- POLICY:** DISPOSAL OF CITIZENS UNWANTED MEDICATIONS & SHARPS DISPOSAL.
- PURPOSE:** Identify and establish guidelines for unwanted medications and sharps disposal from citizens.
- DEFINITION:** Unwanted medications are classified into three general groups:
- Controlled substances
  - Non-controlled substances
  - Sharps disposal containers
- SCOPE:** Safely dispose of citizens medications that are unwanted, outdated or no longer needed.
- PROCEDURE:** **CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES** are drugs or chemicals whose manufacture, possession and use are regulated by the Controlled Substances Act which is enforced by the Drug Enforcement Administration. Controlled substances may include illegal drugs or prescription medications such as pain killers and tranquilizers.
- ***Controlled medications cannot be taken by CCF&R.*** They must be delivered to any law enforcement collection site Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in an original, sealed container and have all patient information either removed or marked out. (Battle Ground Police Department, La Center Police Department, Ridgefield Police Department, Clark County Sheriff's Office- Headquarters, West Precinct, East Precinct, Camas Police Department, Washougal Police Department, Vancouver Police Department- East Precinct.)
  - To determine if something is a CONTROLLED or NON-CONTROLLED substance, you can call the National Poison Hotline at 1-800-222-1222.
- NON-CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES** include over-the-counter drugs as well as some prescriptions that are not regulated by the Controlled Substances Act.
- Non-Controlled substances may be disposed of at participating pharmacies (for a list of these pharmacies go to <http://www.clark.wa.gov/recycle/A-Z/Resources/PartPharm-meds.html> and click Participating Pharmacy Disposal List.)

- Return non-controlled unwanted medications to physician.
- Take non-controlled unwanted medications to a household hazardous waste collection facility or event.
- CCF&R can take non-controlled unwanted medications at any staffed CCF&R Fire Station.

**CCF&R Procedure:**

- Verify that it is ***not*** a controlled medication.
- Fire Department personnel make sure that citizen has removed patient information from containers.
- Put medication and bottles in clear sealing bag; note your name, quantity of bottles, date and station number on the outside of the bag.
- Email the EMS Program Assistant with the security number from the bag and what you are sending. Put this into an inter-office envelope.
- Send bag/envelope to the EMS Program Assistant office at 2-6.
- EMS Program Assistant will send a confirmation email to sender of bag upon receipt.
- EMS Program Assistant will log all items.
- Once a month the EMS Program Assistant will take non-controlled medications to hazardous waste collection facility or event.

**SHARPS DISPOSAL** “Sharps waste” (hypodermic needle, syringes with needles attached, and lancets.) is defined as a form of biomedical waste.

- **CCF&R cannot take used Sharps containers from the public.**
- Sharps containers from private residences can be taken to:  
Central Transfer and Recycling Center  
11034 NE 117<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver, WA 98662  
360/ 256.8482

All Fred Meyers pharmacies. \$3.00 for a small container, \$5.00 for a large container.

Other participating pharmacies.