

Producer Provided Medications Return Program in British Columbia



Brand-owners of pharmaceuticals and natural health products have more than 13 years of experience providing and paying for a medicine return program in British Columbia and are operating similar programs in other countries around the world, including Italy, Spain, and France.

The B.C. Recycling Regulation requires all brand-owners of pharmaceutical products to be responsible for the management of their products, including collection of left-over products.

2008 B.C. Medications Return Program Results:		
Amount of unwanted medicines collected:	78,714 pounds	Collected from BC's population of 4.38 million in 2008.
Voluntary pharmacy participation rate:	95%	942 community pharmacies participate.
Annual total cost of program to producers:	\$325,500 US (\$345,000 Canadian)	Drug producers' individual share of annual costs ranged from \$200 to \$20,000, with two companies paying \$50,000. Most producers paid less than \$2,000 per year.

How BC's medicine return program works:

- The Post Consumer Pharmaceutical Stewardship Association (PCPSA) provides the medications return program. PCPSA is a not-for-profit industry sponsored association founded by Canada's Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies (Rx&D), the Canadian Generic Pharmaceutical Association (CGPA) and the NDMAC, Advancing Canadian self-care.
- Consumers return their unwanted medications to any participating pharmacy throughout the province. Prescription drugs (brand name and generic), over-the-counter medications, vitamins, and supplements are accepted.
- There are no user fees directed to the consumer/patient at time of purchase or at the point of collection.
- Medicines returned from each pharmacy are tracked by weight, pickup date, and location, and stored in a secure location until a shipment is accumulated for safe destruction through a licensed incineration facility.
- Program costs - such as management, communications, collection, transportation, storage, disposal, and promotional activities - are covered by brand-owners through annual payments to the PCPSA. Each medicine producer's contribution is based on number of prescriptions dispensed (brand-name and generic) and/or percentage of sales of affected self-care health products. Rates are set yearly by the Board of Directors in relation to projected costs. *See list of participating producers on reverse.*

According to Ginette Vanasse, Executive Director of the Post-Consumer Product Stewardship Association, the costs of medicines have not increased in British Columbia as a result of their medicine return program. Rather the relatively small costs are internalized and have become a part of doing business.

Sources: Post Consumer Pharmaceutical Stewardship Association (PCPSA) web site: <http://www.medicationsreturn.ca/>.
 Medicine Return Program Annual Report 2006, 2007, 2008: <http://www.medicationsreturn.ca/ar2006.pdf>;
<http://www.medicationsreturn.ca/ar2007.pdf> and <http://www.medicationsreturn.ca/ar2008.pdf>.

For information about Washington's Secure Medicine Return bill, contact:
 Margaret Shield, Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County, 206-265-9732 or margaret.shield@kingcounty.gov

Drug Producers Providing B.C.'s Medications Return Program

Brand-owners for pharmaceuticals and self-care health products have more than 13 years experience in providing and paying for a medications return program serving British Columbia. The following drug companies participated in the program in 2008. Many of these companies also sell medications in Washington State.

Abbott Laboratories Ltd	Graceway Pharmaceuticals	Platinum Naturals
Abraxis BioScience Inc	Herbalife of Canada	Procter & Gamble Inc
Actelion Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc	Holista Health Canada Inc	Procter & Gamble Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc
Advantage CKN	Hospira Healthcare Corp	Purdue Pharma
Alcon Canada Inc	Hudson's Bay Company	Quixtar Canada Corporation
Amgen Canada Inc	Indigene Pharma Inc	Ranbaxy Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc
Apotex Inc	Institut Rosell	Ratiopharm
Astellas Pharma Canada Inc	Jamieson Laboratories	Rivex Pharma Inc
AstraZeneca Canada Inc	Janssen-Ortho Inc	Roche Ltd
Au Naturel Canada Inc	Johnson & Johnson Inc	Sandoz Canada
Axcan Pharma Inc	Katz Group Canada Ltd	Sanofi-Aventis
Bayer Inc	King Pharmaceuticals	Schering-Plough Canada Inc
Bioforce Canada Inc	Kripps Pharmacy	Seaford Pharmaceuticals Inc
Biovail Pharmaceuticals Canada	Laboratoires Riva	Servier Canada Inc
Boehringer Ingelheim Canada Ltd	Leo Pharma Inc	Shaklee Canada Inc
Boiron Canada Inc	Loblaw Companies Ltd	Shire Canada Inc
Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmaceutical Group Canada	London Drugs Ltd	Shoppers Drug Mart, Pharmaprix
Safeway Ltd	Lundbeck Canada Inc	SISU Inc
Chattem (Canada) Inc	Mead Johnson Nutritionals	Solvay Pharma Inc
Church & Dwight Canada	Merck Frosst Canada Ltd	Stiefel Canada Inc
Cobalt Pharmaceuticals Inc	Natural Factors Nutritional Products Ltd	Swiss Herbal Remedies Ltd
Combe Inc	Nature's Sunshine Products	Taro Pharmaceuticals Inc
Costco	Novartis Consumer Health Canada Inc	Tianshi Health Products
CV Technologies Inc	Novartis Pharma Canada Inc	Trophic Canada
Cytex Pharmaceutical Inc	Novo Nordisk	UniPHARM Wholesale Drugs
Eli Lilly Canada Inc	Novopharm Ltd / Teva Neuroscience	USANA Canada Co
EMD-Serono Canada Inc	Nu-Pharm Inc	Valeant Canada Ltd
Enzymatic Therapy	Nycomed Canada Inc	Vita Health Products Inc
Ferring Inc	Odan Laboratories Ltd	Wal-Mart Pharmacy
Gaia Garden Herbs Inc	Omega Laboratories Ltd	WellSpring Pharmaceutical Canada Corp
Galderma Canada	Overwaitea Food Group Ltd Partnership	WN Pharmaceuticals Ltd
General Nutrition Centres Canada	Paladin Labs Inc	Wyeth Canada
GenPharm Inc	Peoples Drug Mart (BC) Ltd	Wyeth Consumer Healthcare Inc
GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare	Pfizer Canada Inc	
GlaxoSmithKline Inc	Pharmasave Drugs (National) Ltd	
	Pharmascience Inc	

For additional information, see the web site of the Post Consumer Pharmaceutical Stewardship Association, at http://www.medicationsreturn.ca/home_en.php. A 29-page plan describing the BC product stewardship program is online at <http://www.medicationsreturn.ca/stewardship-plan.pdf>.