

Safe Disposal of Medicines

Medicines are drugs prescribed by your doctor such as antibiotics, opioids for pain, and other over the counter drugs. They need to be stored in a correct way for use. You should never reuse leftover medicines without talking to your doctor first. There is a right way to get rid of leftover medicines. Look at the medicines you have on hand. Old out dated and unused ones should be thrown away.

How do I safely dispose of drugs and medicines?

Throwing away expired or unused medicines in the right way can protect you and your loved ones from harm. It will also prevent the medicines from getting into someone else's hands for use. Follow the instructions on the label or package inserts to know how to safely dispose of your drugs and medicines. DO NOT flush down the toilet or sink unless the label or patient information insert tells you to do this.

Follow these steps before throwing away medicines in the trash:

1. Pour medicine into a plastic bag that seals. Add water to help dissolve the medicine.
2. Add kitty litter, dirt or coffee grounds (something that will make it less appealing for pets and children to eat) to the plastic bag.
3. Seal the plastic bag and put it in the trash.
4. Remove and destroy any personal information (such as the label with your name) from the medicine container before recycling or throwing it away.

Drug Take-back Programs

Drug take-back programs are a good way to get rid of expired, unwanted or unused medicines and drugs from the home. This will lower the risk that others may accidentally take the medicine.

Local drug take-back program information:

Many police stations have drug take-back boxes in their lobbies. To find the nearest take back box:

- Adams County - call 717-783-8200
- Lancaster County - call 717-397-9968
- Lebanon County - call 717-783-8200
- York County - call 717-845-1066

Other resources:

- York County Solid Waste Authority
www.ycswa.com
- PA Dept. of Drug and Alcohol Programs - Drug Take-back Program
www.ddap.pa.gov

*** WellSpan Medical Groups and other facilities DO NOT accept medicine or drugs for disposal.**

At this time, the following WellSpan Outpatient Pharmacy locations will accept medicines for disposal:

- WellSpan Pharmacy, York Hospital
- WellSpan Pharmacy, Apple Hill Medical Center
- WellSpan Pharmacy, Fairfield
- WellSpan Pharmacy, Good Samaritan Hospital
- WellSpan Pharmacy, Ephrata Community Hospital

Poison help: 1-800-222-1222

Keep all drugs and medicines out of sight and reach of children.