

Pagosa Springs Medical Center has partnered with the Colorado Household Medication Take-Back Program

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has established a permanent household medication take-back program, adding more than 42 drop-off locations in two dozen counties across the state.

In partnership with the Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention, the health department developed the program in response to the increased need for safe disposal of prescription medications. The average American household has four pounds of medications, including both prescription and over-the-counter medications drugs. At the same time, teen abuse of prescription medications is on the rise. Research shows almost 38 percent of teens who abuse prescription drugs obtain them from their parents' medicine cabinet.

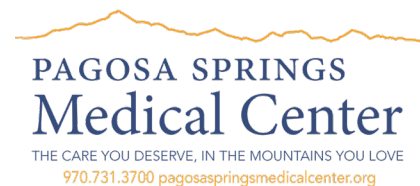
While safely disposing of medications helps reduce drug abuse, it also ensures they are not flushed down the toilet or thrown away, which can harm water quality and the environment.

"Prescription medication misuse and overdose numbers continue to climb, especially among youth. One simple thing we can all do to help is to dispose of our medications responsibly," said Department Director and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Larry Wolk. "And it has the added benefit of protecting our water and environment."

By the end of this year, the health department hopes to have at least one drop off location in every Colorado county.

Salley, Mark. (2017, Jan 9). State establishes permanent medication take-back locations [Press Release]. Retrieved from <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/news/med-take-back>

PAGOSA SPRINGS MEDICAL CENTER TAKE BACK PROGRAM



- WHAT:** The Pagosa Springs Medical Center participates in the Colorado Household Medication Take-Back Program for disposal of unwanted medications.
- WHERE:** PSMC's medication collection box is located inside PSMC's main entrance. Look for the large **green** box near the main lobby.
- WHEN:** The hours of operation for PSMC's medication collection box are: Monday through Thursday, 8am-4pm and Friday from 8am-Noon. **PSMC's collection box does not accept medication outside of the posted hours of operation.** PSMC employees are prohibited from personally receiving/holding medications for disposal as medications may only be disposed of directly to the collection box.

HOW:

This is a State program and continuance depends on its proper use. The following rules apply to the Colorado Medication Take-Back Program:

- **DISPOSAL:** Medications may be deposited in their original containers (remove or strike out personal information). Alternatively, pills/capsules may be placed into a zip-lock bag for disposal into the collection box (and then separately trash/recycle the original container).
- **ITEMS THAT CAN BE ACCEPTED:**
 - Prescription medications, including prescribed controlled substances (DEA Schedule II-V);
 - over-the-counter medications;
 - liquid medications (small amounts in original, non-leaking containers);
 - medication samples;
 - medicated ointments;
 - vitamins;
 - pet medications;
 - *unused* drug injection cartridges – for example, unused EpiPens and insulin pens (they must be unused with needle still protected inside);
 - *unused* inhaler canisters – for example, Advair, ProAir and Ventolin (they must be unused, no empty canisters or unneeded plastic holders/mouthpieces);
 - *unused* medicated patches (as noted below in items that cannot be accepted, any used Fentanyl and Duragesic patches cannot be accepted as they are extremely hazardous; instead, the Colorado Medication Take-Back Program advises that such used patches should be folded in half, sticky-side together, and flushed down the toilet).
- **ITEMS THAT CANNOT BE ACCEPTED:**
 - Marijuana;
 - Illegal drugs (e.g. DEA Schedule I drugs such as heroin, LSD, Ecstasy, Quaaludes, Bath Salts with MDPV, etc.);
 - Needles, syringes, or other sharps;
 - Chemotherapy drugs;
 - Medical tools and supplies;
 - Bloody or infectious waste;
 - Personal care products;
 - Thermometers;
 - Empty containers;
 - Medication wastes generated by healthcare facilities, including nursing homes;
 - *Used* drug injection cartridges;
 - *Used* drug inhaler canisters;
 - *Used* Fentanyl and Duragesic patches as they are extremely hazardous (instead, the Colorado Medication Take-Back Program advises that such used patches should be folded in half, sticky side together and flushed down the toilet).

