

Pharmaceutical Waste Product Stewardship

Why consider a product stewardship approach for pharmaceuticals?

- To reduce pharmaceutical waste
- To promote safe management of pharmaceutical waste to protect public health and the environment
- To make it easier for people to return unused pharmaceuticals for safe disposal
- To encourage manufacturers to take responsibility for the environmental and social impacts of their products by providing financial incentive to do so.

How might product stewardship apply to pharmaceutical waste?

Product stewardship legislation may mandate that producers, along with other stakeholders, share financial responsibility for the environmental impact of their product. This could inspire manufacturers to incorporate more environmentally friendly designs and processes, including increased absorption rates of pills or green chemistry practices. Through better product design and responsible business practice, product stewardship may help decrease the overall amount of pharmaceuticals in the environment. Product stewardship could also encourage healthcare providers to examine how they dispense and prescribe medications that often end up as waste.

New York

- 1. Bill Number:** A4651 **Sponsors:** Assemblyman Englebright (D) and Sen. Grisanti (R)
The current draft of this bill would require drug manufacturers to be responsible for establishing drug take-back programs for prescription and over-the-counter medications in the state of New York. It would require that all drug disposal be done through a drug collection program, and would prohibit all other forms of disposal (landfills). Each drug manufacturer in the state of New York would be responsible for holding at least one drug collection in each county. All costs of drug collection programs would be borne by drug manufacturers.
- 2. H.R. 2939**
In September 2011, Congresswoman Louise Slaughter introduced the "Pharmaceutical Stewardship Act." This legislation would provide Americans with safe pharmaceutical disposal and would address the negative social and environmental impacts of leftover household medications. This Act would create a nonprofit corporation funded by pharmaceutical producers, who would establish medication take-back programs in every state. The bill would promote an overall reduction in the amount of pharmaceutical waste created from production to disposal of the product.

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