



COMMUNITY PHARMACY FOUNDATION
COMPLETED GRANT SYNOPSIS

Unwanted Medication Collection Project

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Objectives	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and implement a community pharmacy education program about the environmental, health, safety, and homeland security issues associated with the improper disposal of unwanted medications. 2. Working in partnership with volunteer community pharmacies, develop and implement a two-pronged community pharmacy based consumer education program: 1) making purchasing decisions that will limit the amount of unwanted medications, and 2) the proper (and improper) way to dispose of the medications. 3. Develop and implement community pharmacy unwanted medication collection and disposal programs by expanding upon the pilot collections already successfully implemented by NERC in partnership with a community pharmacy. 4. Write and promote guidance for the community pharmacy community about how to provide consumer education and leadership in minimizing the amount of unwanted medications requiring disposal and promoting and providing environmentally sound disposal of unwanted medications. 5. The results of all of these efforts will be analyzed, publicized, and disseminated via the web, speaking opportunities, and in appropriate print publications. 	
Methods	
Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked closely with community pharmacy consultant to identify pharmacies that might be interested in holding a pilot collection. • Met with or had communications with Boards of Pharmacy in states in which pilot collection events were planned. • Sought speaking opportunities to promote project, concept of unwanted medication collections, and to identify pharmacies interested in participating in a pilot collection event. • Relied on experience gained in developing and holding collections to produce best management practice guidance document for holding unwanted medication collections in community pharmacies.
Study endpoints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of collections held • Number of participants • Amount of medications diverted
Results	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held five (5) pilot collections in three (3) states. • 275 participants • 333 gallons of medications collected (including 28 gallons of regulated medications). • Produced best management practice guidance document and companion quick guide. • 500 cd's were produced and document posted on Northeast Recycling Council, Inc. website. • Within first month of posting approximately 260 downloads of the full document, and 140 downloads of the quick guide. Also distributed 450 copies of the cd. • Made presentations about project at five (5) events, with approximately 600 audience members. • Provided substantive technical assistance and support to 13 additional community pharmacies and programs in 11 states. 	

For further information and/or materials on this grant, please visit
www.CommunityPharmacyFoundation.org and submit your inquiry through **Contact_Us**.

Conclusion

This was an extremely successful project. Identifying community pharmacies to participate in the project proved more challenging than anticipated, and in particular our efforts were not successful in securing a pilot in an independent pharmacy. During the course of this project, we were successful in promoting the concept of unwanted medication collections and in providing technical assistance and support to a number of pharmacies and programs that proceeded without our direct involvement. We continue to receive requests for advice and support, as well as requests to make presentations about how to hold an unwanted medication collection in a community pharmacy. We are confident that this project has provided leadership on this topic and that we can anticipate the community pharmacy community moving forward.