Safe Medication Return Program

OVERVIEW
What does RCW 69.48 do?

- Establishes a unified statewide system for collection and disposal of unwanted medications through a drug take-back program operated and funded by drug manufacturers.

- Helps prevent medicine abuse, poisonings, and overdoses by reducing access and risk.

- Protects our environment by keeping waste medicines from adding to pharmaceutical pollution.

- Collection system includes physical kiosks at authorized collection sites (ex: retail pharmacies, hospitals) and mail-back options.

**FDA, DEA, EPA, and local agencies recommend safe medicine return as better than trash disposal.**
Department of Health’s Role

- Department of Health (DOH) is required to oversee the establishment of the statewide drug take-back program(s) and monitor on-going operations.
- Provide technical assistance to manufacturers to help them determine their requirements under this law.
- DOH will work with Washington Poison Center and an academic institution to evaluate program effectiveness and report findings to legislature.
- Currently working on the rule
  - Public hearing was on May 8th
# Implementation Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 2019</td>
<td>Program operator(s) submits application and proposal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 29, 2019</td>
<td>DOH must approve or reject application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 27, 2020</td>
<td><em>If rejected, applicant has to submit revised application</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 26, 2020</td>
<td>Earliest possible date for approved program operations (assumes the first proposal is approved by DOH)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 26, 2021</td>
<td>Earliest possible date for existing county programs to be folded into the state program (assumes the first proposal is approved by DOH)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2029</td>
<td>ESHB 1047 “sunset” clause</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Resources

- Kiosk locations can be found at
  - [Med-Project.org](http://Med-Project.org) (King, Snohomish, Pierce, Kitsap, Whatcom, Skagit)
  - [TakeBackYourMeds.org](http://TakeBackYourMeds.org)

- DOH [Safe Medication Return](http://Safe Medication Return) website

- Program manager, Carly Bartz-Overman, can be reached at [safemedreturn@doh.wa.gov](mailto:safemedreturn@doh.wa.gov)
Washington State Department of Health is committed to providing customers with forms and publications in appropriate alternate formats. Requests can be made by calling 800-525-0127 or by email at civil.rights@doh.wa.gov. TTY users dial 711.