



SAFE MEDICATION RETURN PROGRAM

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

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

Resources

- Kiosk locations can be found at
 - [Med-Project.org](https://www.med-project.org) (King, Snohomish, Pierce, Kitsap, Whatcom, Skagit)
 - [TakeBackYourMeds.org](https://www.TakeBackYourMeds.org)
- DOH [Safe Medication Return](https://www.doh.wa.gov/Programs/Prevention/Programs/medication-return) website
- Program manager, Carly Bartz-Overman, can be reached at 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.