

ONTARIO SHARPS RETURN PROGRAM

Did you know?

All infusion sets with needles attached, lancets, needle tips, needles, pens, pen needles, prefilled cartridges, prefilled syringes, are now part of the Ontario Sharps Return Program, a new stewardship program for the province of Ontario promoting the safe and easy disposal of “sharps”.

What is the Ontario Sharps Program?

The Ontario Sharps Return Program (OSRP) is the safe and easy way to dispose of any sharps you may have in your home, even those used on your pets. The purpose is to ensure that “sharps” that are either used or no longer needed are NOT disposed of in the garbage. Sharps are never accepted in garbage or recycling, so ask your pharmacist to help you with proper disposal of needles, your actions will help reduce the risk of accidental needle stick injuries.

Why the Ontario Sharp Return Program?

Never place loose needles and other sharps in the household or public trashcans or recycling bins, and never flush them down the toilet. This puts trash and sewage workers, janitors, housekeepers, household members, and children at risk of being harmed. Storing used sharps in a coffee mug or plastic jar around the household is not safe. Safe sharp disposal is important wherever you are at home, at work, at school, traveling, or in other public places. All needles and syringes should be discarded in an approved sharp container to reduce and chances of accidental needle stick injuries and subsequent infections.

How can I safely discard sharps?

It is important to understand the appropriate methods by which to dispose of household generated sharp waste. All used sharps should be put into approved sharps containers, available free of charge from your pharmacist. Only sharps in approved containers that are labeled with the universal biohazard symbol are acceptable. The pharmacist can assist you on how to dispose of needles and other sharp devices. Not sure where to go? Visit www.medicationsreturn.ca for the list of enrolled pharmacies nearest you or e-mail the Health Products Stewardship Association (HPSA) at info@medicationsreturn.ca if you have additional questions about the new stewardship program.

What happens to the sharps?

From the time you bring them to the pharmacy, the OSRP will ensure the safe and appropriate storage and disposal of all your sharps and needles according to the health and environmental regulations.

Who is HPSA

The Health Product Stewardship Association (HPSA) is a not-for-profit association funded and governed by the health products industries. The HPSA implements the OSRP as required by the Ontario government.



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