

Producer Provided Medications Return Program in British Columbia



Brand-owners of pharmaceuticals and natural health products have more than 14 years of experience providing and paying for a medicine return program in British Columbia and are operating similar programs in other countries around the world, including Italy, Spain, and France.

The B.C. Recycling Regulation requires all brand-owners of pharmaceutical products to be responsible for the management of their products, including collection of left-over products.

2010 B.C. Medications Return Program Results:		
Amount of unwanted medicines collected:	133,474 pounds	Collected from BC's population of 4.53 million in 2010.
Voluntary pharmacy participation rate:	95.6%	1,016 community pharmacies participate.
Annual total cost of program to producers:	\$467,645 US (\$478,471 Canadian)	Most drug producers paid less than \$2,000 per year, with individual costs ranging from \$200 to \$15,000. Eight companies paid more than \$20,000.

How BC's medicine return program works:

- The Post Consumer Pharmaceutical Stewardship Association (PCPSA) provides the medications return program. PCPSA is a not-for-profit industry sponsored association founded by Canada's Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies (Rx&D), the Canadian Generic Pharmaceutical Association (CGPA) and Consumer Health Products Canada.
- Consumers return their unwanted medications to any participating pharmacy throughout the province. Prescription drugs (brand name and generic), over-the-counter medications and natural health products; vitamins, and supplements are accepted.
- There are no user fees directed to the consumer/patient at time of purchase or at the point of collection.
- Medicines returned from each pharmacy are tracked by weight, pickup date, and location, and stored in a secure location until a shipment is accumulated for safe destruction through a licensed incineration facility.
- Program costs - such as management, communications, collection, transportation, storage, disposal, and promotional activities - are covered by brand-owners through annual payments to the PCPSA. Each medicine producer's contribution is based on number of prescriptions dispensed (brand-name and generic) and/or percentage of sales of affected self-care health products. Rates are set yearly by the Board of Directors in relation to projected costs. *See list of participating producers on reverse.*

According to Ginette Vanasse, Executive Director of the Post-Consumer Product Stewardship Association, the costs of medicines have not increased in British Columbia as a result of their medicine return program. Rather the relatively small costs are internalized and have become a part of doing business.

Sources: Post-Consumer Residual Stewardship Program - **Pharmaceutical Annual Report – January to December 2010**
Available online at: <http://www.medicationsreturn.ca/ar2010.pdf>; and Personal communication with Ginette Vanasse

Drug Producers Providing B.C.'s Medications Return Program

Brand-owners for pharmaceuticals and self-care health products have more than 14 years experience in providing and paying for a medication return program serving British Columbia. The following drug companies participated in the program in 2010. Many of these companies also sell medications in Washington State.

Abbott Laboratories Limited	HPI Health Products/Lakota	Pharmasave Drugs
Abraxis BioScience Inc.	Hudson's Bay Company	(National) Ltd.
Advantage Sales and Marketing Canada	Indigene Pharma Inc.	Pharmascience Inc.
Afexa Life Sciences Inc.	Institut Rosell-Lallemand	Platinum Naturals
Alcon Canada Inc.	Jamieson Laboratories	Procter & Gamble Inc.
Amgen Canada Inc.	Janssen Inc.	ProMedics Nutraceutical Ltd
Amway Canada Corporation	Katz Group Canada Ltd	Purdue Pharma
Apotex Inc.	King Pharmaceuticals	Ranbaxy Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc.
Astellas Pharma Canada Inc.	Kripps Pharmacy	Ratiopharm
AstraZeneca Canada Inc.	Laboratoires Riva	Roche Limited
Axcan Pharma Inc.	Leo Pharma Inc.	Sandoz Canada
Bayer HealthCare, Consumer Care	Loblaw Companies Ltd	Sanofi-Aventis
Bioforce Canada Inc.	London Drugs Limited	Schering-Plough Canada Inc.
Biogen Idec Canada Inc	Lundbeck Canada Inc.	Seaford Pharmaceuticals Inc.
Biovail Pharmaceuticals Canada	McNeil Consumer Healthcare, Division of Johnson & Johnson Inc.	Sepracor Pharmaceuticals Inc.
Boehringer Ingelheim Canada Ltd.	Mead Johnson Nutrition (Canada) Co.	Servier Canada Inc.
Boiron Canada Inc.	Merck Canada Inc.	Shaklee Canada Inc.
Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmaceutical Group	Mylan Canada	Shire Canada Inc.
Canada Safeway Ltd.	Natural Factors Nutritional Products Ltd.	Shoppers Drug Mart, Pharmaprix
Chattem (Canada) Inc.	Nature's Sunshine Products	SISU Inc.
Church & Dwight Canada	Northwest Natural Products	Solvay Pharma Inc.
Cobalt Pharmaceuticals Inc.	Novartis Consumer Health Canada Inc.	Stiefel Canada Inc., a GSK Company
Combe Incorporated	Novartis Pharma Canada Inc.	Swiss Herbal Remedies Ltd.
Costco	Novo Nordisk	Taro Pharmaceuticals Inc.
Cytex Pharmaceutical Inc.	Nu-Pharm Inc	Teva Canada / Novopharm
Eli Lilly Canada Inc.	Nycomed Canada Inc.	Tianshi Health Products
EMD-Serono Canada Inc.	Odan Laboratories Ltd.	Trophic Canada
Enzymatic Therapy	Omega Alpha Pharmaceuticals	UniPHARM Wholesale Drugs
Ferring Inc.	Omega Laboratories Ltd.	USANA Canada Co.
Galderma Canada	Organika Health Products Inc.	Valeant Canada Limited
General Nutrition Centres Canada	Overwaita Food Group Ltd Partnership	Vita Health Products Inc.
GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare Inc.	Paladin Labs Inc.	Wal-Mart Pharmacy
GlaxoSmithKline Inc.	Peoples Drug Mart (B.C.) Ltd	Warner Chilcott Canada Co.
Graceway Pharmaceuticals	Pfizer Canada Inc	WellSpring Pharmaceutical Canada Corp.
Helix BioPharma Corp.	Pfizer Consumer Healthcare, Division of Pfizer Canada Inc.	Westcoast Naturals
Herbalife of Canada		WN Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
Hospira Healthcare Corporation		Wyeth Canada

For additional information, see the web site of the Post Consumer Pharmaceutical Stewardship Association, at http://www.medicationsreturn.ca/british_columbia_en.php. A 29-page plan describing the BC product stewardship program is online at <http://www.medicationsreturn.ca/stewardship-plan.pdf>.