



Proposed Ordinance on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Pharmaceutical & Sharps Waste

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Background

- Estimated 200 million pounds of unused or expired prescription drugs stored in medicine cabinets across America
 - 8,265 drug-related deaths in LA County from 2000-2009
 - 75% of those who misuse prescription drugs obtain them from relatives or friends
- Improper disposal of needles, syringes & other “sharps” may result in needlestick injuries that expose other to hepatitis B & C, HIV, and other blood borne pathogens



Purpose

- Establish a stewardship program that allows for safe, convenient, and sustainable disposal of unwanted drugs and sharps.
- The proposed ordinance is based on the concept of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).



Key Elements

- Finance, develop and implement a Product Stewardship Plan;
- Safe, convenient and equitable access to take-back locations; and
- Promotion, outreach, and education to enhance effectiveness of program



Status of Ordinance

- Initial draft circulated for comments on November 5, 2015.
- Revised draft developed based on input and to be distributed by Jan 8th.
- Ordinance will go to Board of Supervisors on February 16, 2016 for consideration.



What this means for cities

- If passed, the Ordinance will become effective in the *unincorporated areas* of the County; cities would need to adopt the ordinance through resolution.
- Cities adopting the Ordinance soon after effective date could be included during the first year of the program.



What you can do to support adoption

- Encourage your constituents and partner organizations to review the draft ordinance.
- Send **letters of support** from your City to the Board of Supervisors.



What you can do to support adoption (continued)

- Send written comments to the EPR Working Group at EPR@lacounty.gov.
- Visit our website at www.PublicHealth.lacounty.gov/pharma.htm
- Attend the BOS meeting on February 16th and speak in support of adoption.

Thank you !

