



How to Store and Discard Medications and Injectable Products

How do I properly store my medication?

- Always keep all medication out of the reach of children.
- Store your medication in its original container, in accordance to your prescription label.
- Throw away any unused medication after the Beyond Use Date (BUD) (discard date or expiry date).
- Please refer to the Medication Information Guide enclosed in your prescription shipment for the specific medication you received.

How do I prevent sterile medication from getting contaminated?

To ensure the product remains sterile, always use a fresh alcohol wipe for the vial as well as a fresh needle and syringe to puncture the septum (stopper) of the vial. Prior to injecting your medication, use a fresh alcohol wipe to prepare the site of injection. Be sure to adhere to storage conditions and do not open the vial or remove the seal of the vial other than inserting the needle into the septum (stopper) of the vial as directed by your physician. If using a multi-dose pen, be sure to have a box of pen needles on hand. Open the pen needle unit and set aside. Unscrew the cap from pen and wipe pen with an alcohol swab. Gently turn the pen clockwise until the two are fitted into place. Make sure to not contaminate the pen tip after it is swabbed clean and always ensure it is kept in its plastic container.

How do I prepare expired/unused medications for safe disposal?

1. Take your medications out of their original containers.
2. Scratch off your name and the Rx number or cover them with black permanent marker.
3. Mix medications with something no person/animal would bother to consume (ex. cat litter or coffee grounds)
4. Transfer the mixture into a container with a lid, such as an empty margarine tub or sealable bag and throw it away.
5. Do not flush prescription medications down the toilet, or pour them in a drain unless the label tells you to do so.

How do I dispose of unused, expired or discontinued injectable products?

Place the injectable device (lancets, pen needles, insulin syringes, needles, etc...) in a proper sharps disposable container. Contact your prescriber or pharmacist if you need help getting a sharps disposal container. We offer sharps containers for purchase, in a variety of sizes depending on your needs.

Disposal of injectable products cont'd...

Do not over fill a sharps container. When your sharps container is about 3/4 full, follow your community guidelines for disposal of the container. Sharps disposal guidelines and programs may vary depending on where you live. Whenever possible, purchase sharps containers that come with mail back boxes for disposal by the company. You can also check with your local trash removal services or health department to see what methods are used where you live. Never place loose needles, syringes, or lancets in the trash. In California, Massachusetts, Oregon, and Wisconsin it is illegal to dispose of needles in the trash.

Where can I take expired or unused prescription medications?

Drop-off site: There may be a drop-off site near you. Check with your local law enforcement agency or fire department, as they may collect them. Contact your city or county government regarding household trash and recycling services to learn about medication disposal options and guidelines for your area.

National Take Back Day: The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) holds a National Prescription Drug Take Back Day.

What should I do in the event my medication appears to be different than expected?

Capsules: softening or breakage of the shell

Tablets: crumbling to a powder at the bottom of the container, changes in color, swelling of tablet size

Solutions & Injectable Formulas: hazy or cloudiness to the liquid, changes in color, appearance of crystals

Suspensions: does not return to an even or consistent appearance after shaking well

Creams/Ointments: changes in the consistency or a gritty texture

Suppositories: drying out and decreasing in size, softening and changes in shape

**REPORT ANY PHYSICAL CHANGES IN YOUR MEDICATIONS BY CALLING:
Wells Specialty Pharmacy (855) 474-2763
AND ASK TO SPEAK TO A PHARMACIST.**

For more information please visit:

<http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm101653.htm#1>

http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/index.html

NOTE: This summary sheet is intended to provide guidance for safe storage, handling and disposal of sterile compounded product and may not cover all possible information. Call your doctor for medical advice and/or about side effects. You may report effects to the FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088. A Wells Specialty Pharmacy pharmacist is available to answer any questions. For consultation please call 1-855-474-2763.