

PRESS RELEASE

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Take Back Your Medicine Kiosk Installed at Providence Mount Carmel Hospital in Colville, Wash.

Spokane, WA – The Washington Poison Center announced today the installation of a Take Back Your Medicine kiosk in the main lobby of Providence Mount Carmel Hospital in Colville, Washington. Take Back Your Medicine kiosks offer secure disposal for unused, unwanted or expired medication, helping reduce accidental poisonings and drug overdoses, while also helping protect the environment.

With drug overdoses continuing to be the leading cause of accidental death in Washington state, the Washington Poison Center obtained a grant through the Empire Health Foundation to place medicine take back kiosks in rural areas with limited access to secure medicine disposal, like Stevens County.

“Making sure community members across Washington state have access to safely dispose of their leftover medications is an important priority for the Washington Poison Center,” said Dr. Scott Phillips, associate medical director for the Washington Poison Center, and hospitalist for Providence Mount Carmel Hospital. “Rural areas such as Stevens County suffer disproportionately higher rates of overdoses than the rest of the state. Decreasing the amount of unused medications available in the household through the use of a Take Back Your Medicine kiosk lessens the number of potential pharmaceutical poisonings, helping keep community members safe and healthy.”

The installation of the Take Back Your Medicine kiosk at Providence Mount Carmel brings the total secure medicine disposal locations throughout the state of Washington to 274. Community members can find the closest secure medicine disposal location by visiting, www.takebackyourmeds.org.

Residents of Stevens County can access the Take Back Your Medicine kiosk at Providence Mount Carmel through the main lobby doors, during regular hospital hours, 6 am to 8 pm, 7 days per week. Accepted disposal items include: all prescription medications, over the counter (OTC) medications, ex: Benadryl, Allegra, Tylenol, Ibuprofen, pet medications, and vitamins are accepted. Refer to the attached Q&A for additional information.

“We are hopeful that the Take Back Your Medicine kiosk becomes a vital public health resource for community members throughout Stevens County,” said Ron Rehn, Stevens County chief administrative officer for Providence Health Care. “We appreciate that the Washington Poison Center and Empire Health Foundation recognize how important secure medicine take back options are for our community.”

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About the Washington Poison Center: For 62 years, the Washington Poison Center, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, has assisted Washingtonians with poisonings, drug overdoses, and toxic exposures through its emergency telephone helpline that operates 24/7/365. In 2017, specialists in poison information answered 63,000 calls from community members, of which 92.4% were treated at home. Of all calls, 48.1% concerned children under 6-years-old, 12.7% concerned adults over 60-years-old, and 25.8% were from healthcare professionals. From patient report, if Washington Poison Center services were not available, 60.2% of home callers would access the emergency room or call 911 for assistance.

About Providence Health Care: Providence Health Care is the eastern Washington region of Providence Health & Services, a not-for-profit Catholic health care ministry committed to providing for the needs of the communities it serves – especially for those who are poor and vulnerable. In eastern Washington, the Providence Health Care network of services includes Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center, Sacred Heart Children’s Hospital and Providence Holy Family Hospital in Spokane County– all nationally recognized for quality care, and two critical access hospitals in Stevens County – Providence Mount Carmel Hospital in Colville and St. Joseph’s Hospital in Chewelah. It also includes a full continuum of services – Providence Medical Park in Spokane Valley (a comprehensive multi-specialty center), three urgent care centers, home health, assisted living, adult day health and skilled nursing care. Providence Medical Group in Spokane and Providence NorthEast Washington Medical Group in Stevens County includes 800 physicians and advanced practitioners. Its medical staffs includes primary care providers, surgical subspecialists and medical specialists. For more information, visit www.phc.org.

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Questions and Answers – page 1

Q. Why are Take Back Your Medicine kiosks good for the community?
A. Take Back Your Medicine kiosks offer secure disposal for unused, unwanted or expired medication, helping reduce accidental poisonings and drug overdoses, while also helping protect the environment.
Q. Who can use the Take Back Your Medicine kiosk at Providence Mount Carmel Hospital?
A. Community members disposing of unused, unwanted or expired medications from a home setting can use the Take Back Your Medicine kiosk.
Q. When is the Take Back Your Medicine kiosk open?
A. The Take Back Your Medicine kiosk at Providence Mount Carmel Hospital is located through the main lobby doors by the elevator, and is open during regular hospital hours, 6 am to 8 pm, 7 days per week.
Q. What drugs are accepted?
A. All prescription medications, over the counter (OTC) medications, ex: Benadryl, Allegra, Tylenol, Ibuprofen, pet medications, and vitamins are accepted.
Q. What is not accepted?
A. Insulin needles, blood, cosmetics, inhalers, and illicit drugs.
Q. Who can use the Take Back Your Medicine kiosk?
A. Community members disposing of unused, unwanted or expired medications from a home setting can use the Take Back Your Medicine kiosk.
Q. When medicine is deposited into the Take Back Your Medicine kiosk, is it secure?
A. Yes, medicine deposited into the Take Back Your Medicine kiosk is secure, in a locked, one-way medicine drop steel receptacle, only accessible by authorized hospital personnel.
Q. How often is the Take Back Your Medicine kiosk emptied, and by whom?
A. The DEA maintains strict guidelines on the handling of medicine take back. Hospital staff are responsible for managing the Take Back Your Medicine kiosk, including monitoring its capacity. When the inner liner fills to capacity (38-gallons) authorized hospital personnel will safely remove the liner from the collection receptacle, seal it and return the liner by common carrier.
Q. What is done with the disposed of medications in the Take Back Your Medicine kiosk?
A. The Take Back Your Medicine kiosk includes a ship back inner liner, that when filled (38-gallons), is removed safely by authorized hospital personnel, sealed and returned by common carrier to an incineration facility, where the contents are properly destructed.

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Questions and Answers – page 2

Q. Does it cost anything to use the Take Back Your Medicine kiosk at Providence Mount Carmel?

A. Disposing of unused, unwanted or expired medication at the Take Back Your Medicine kiosk at Providence Mount Carmel Hospital is provided as a free public health service to the community.

Q. Should people remove the prescription label before disposing of unused medication?

A. Yes, we encourage community members to remove prescription labels that contain personally identifiable information.



Inner Liner of Take Back Your Medicine kiosk:

- Waterproof, tamper-evident, and tear-resistant
- Double 200lb opaque corrugated boxes
- 4mil plastic liner with zip-tie and absorbent
- Department of Transportation drop and leak tested
- Removable without touching contents
- Size, unique ID, barcode – all traceable
- Pre-paid, pre-addressed to reverse distributor with onsite destruction