

From: Nicole Forte [NicoleF@Recyclemore.com]
Sent: Friday, July 30, 2010 11:04 AM
To: PharmaSharps
Subject: Comments on Pharmaceutical Programs

Comments for report to Legislature on Pharmaceutical Programs from the West Contra Costa Integrated Waste Management Authority:

1) We started our pharmaceutical mail back program in September of 2009. The City of Richmond and West County Wastewater District and Recyclemore teamed up to purchase 250 envelopes (TakeAway envelopes from Sharps Compliance Inc). To date only 13 have been return and not all have been handed out. The cost for each envelope is approximately \$3.60 and up to 3 pound of pharms can be put in. Total pounds of pharms received is 7.35. The cost/lb is \$6.37. I calculated this by multiply 13 envelopes at \$3.60 and dividing by 7.35 lbs. The way it was calculated on the report makes it seem that the rest of the envelopes won't be returned thus creating a very high cost/pound number. We want to assume that we will eventually have a return rate of 100%. It might be idealist but swinging the other way is too pessimistic. The mailback program is great for seniors who have a lot of medicines and don't want to drive to our permanent collection facility. It is easy and we have gotten positive feedback from our residents. If these envelopes were readily available at all pharmacies, then residents would have a very simple solutions as to what they could do with unwanted pharms.

2) If the State decides to make disposing of pharmaceuticals down the drain or in the garbage illegal, there needs to be a funding mechanism put in place to pay for the programs. Local government should not bear the burden. If there was a requirement for pharmacies to take back expired and unwanted pharms from the consumers or for manufacturers to fund take back programs, then local governments could help promote the programs and educated the consumers. In my experience, consumers want to do the 'right' thing. We just have to make it convenient and easy.

3) Waste reduction should be a focus as well. This is not easy since our culture is so intent on promoting drug use for every ailment. However, the AB939 hierarchy does place waste reduction at the top. Why are we allowing the manufacturers to make so much without them having a any consequence? Why are doctor's forcing patients to go home with drugs they don't want? Maybe the medical professionals need to be in our discussions so they know what waste is created when they prescribe too much.

Thanks for allowing us to make comments.

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