

## Pfizer's Safe Sharps Disposal Plan

### Background

In accordance with Senate Bill 486, codified within Public Resources Code, Chapter 1 of Part 7 of Division 30, Sections 47115-47116, and Laws of Minnesota 2010, Chapter 286, Senate File No. 1323, Pfizer is required to publish a "Safe Sharps Disposal Plan" which outlines the Company's current sharps disposal support provided to patients who self-inject Pfizer medicines at home, and our plans for next year.

In October 2009, the California Legislature passed and the Governor signed SB 486. The bill requires, on or before July 1, 2010, and annually thereafter, pharmaceutical manufacturers that sell or distribute medication that is self-injected at home through the use of hypodermic needles and other similar devices (i.e., sharps) to submit to CalRecycle a plan that describes how the manufacturer supports the safe collection and proper disposal of the used sharps.

The Minnesota legislation signed by the Governor (April 2010) also requires qualifying companies to post to their websites how they support the safe collection and proper disposal of sharps. As such, this report is posted to [Pfizer's Product Stewardship website](#).

### Applicability

Pfizer has several products that are approved for in-home patient self-injection. Six of the products are biopharmaceuticals which often require refrigeration or freezing. These products are typically provided through specialty pharmacies which are equipped to store and ship the medicines to patients under proper conditions. The remaining products are established products that will soon face generic competition or are currently generic.

### Sharps Management

Pfizer aims to provide the framework for how to manage a wide range of sharps according to state and local disposal requirements. In general, the following provisions apply to self-injection medicines in our portfolio:

- Pfizer provides information and instructions for all its self-injected products, nationwide.
- Patients have multiple options to get sharps disposal questions answered, and get assistance in finding a local disposal option nationwide.
- Pfizer provides information to patients to help them understand how to safely dispose of their injection devices, and the state and local requirements for sharps disposal, nationwide.
- Pfizer innovates by offering safer injection devices or by reducing the number of sharps needed to administer its medicines.
- Pfizer supports the Coalition for Community Safe Needle Disposal, and its efforts to ensure patients can find the latest information on local, regional, and state sharps disposal programs.
- In 2012, Pfizer worked closely with its industry peers to produce a consistent and appropriate approach to sharps disposal.
- In 2013, Pfizer started a new pre-paid sharps take-back program for one of its products.

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## **Provider, Patient and User Education**

Doctors, nurse trainers, call center staff and patients have access to <http://www.safeneedledisposal.org> via Pfizer's product stewardship website. This site has an up-to-date summary of state sharps disposal requirements, with links to state programs.

All users of injectable medicines for home use are guided on the safe disposal of used and expired medicines by trained health care providers when they receive their medicines.

All product inserts advise the patient to dispose of sharps in a responsible and appropriate manner in line with the guidance provided by the health care provider.

Additional support and guidance around sharps disposal can be found at the [Pfizer Products website](#).

## **Product-specific Innovations**

While Pfizer is working towards a comprehensive sharps management and disposal program, there are specific initiatives and technologies unique to delivery systems and disposal methods for certain products.

## **Sharps Disposal Support for 2014 - 2015**

In addition to advancing a comprehensive sharps management and disposal program within Pfizer, efforts are underway to:

- Continue work with peer companies in producing a consistent approach to sharps disposal;
- Partner with trade associations and specialty pharmacies to advance a national strategy for at-home users of self-injection medicines;
- Update and align Pfizer package inserts for all self-injectable products.

## **Additional Information**

For additional information, please see our [Frequently Asked Questions About Used Sharps Disposal](#) (PDF). For any questions regarding this report, please contact Pfizer's Product Stewardship lead at 1-212-733-7356.