SHARPS DISPOSAL BY MAIL
Implementation of SB 1305
Injectible Landscape

Millions of Americans use needles (sharps) to regularly inject prescription medications. The EPA adopted new guidelines to direct residents to seek alternate means of waste disposal to stem this growing national public health safety problem.

- 10 million Americans self-inject legal medications (over 3%)
- Annual double digit growth rate in self-injector population
  - Aging population
  - Increase in diabetes
  - Drug companies developing new treatments
Previous Disposal Options

• Over three billion syringes are discarded into the public solid waste stream every year:
  • In coffee cans
  • In plastic bottles
  • Directly into trash
  • Into trash recycling containers
  • Into the toilet
Critical Disposal Problems

- 2 billion syringes are from legal self-injections
- 1 billion are from intravenous Drug User (IDU)
- There are 4.1 million people with Hep C
- Hep C is growing at a rate of 30% annually
- 60% of new Hep C cases are IDU’s
- 50% of IDU syringes are used diabetic syringes
- New cases of HIV and HBV additional cost annually

* Johns Hopkins study
New EPA Guidelines

EPA has new guidelines to eliminate unsafe disposal solutions

The new guidelines reflect the results of the ongoing educational efforts of the Coalition for Safe Community Needle Disposal
EPA Recommendations

• Ways to handle home-generated sharps
  – Drop-off collection sites
  – Household hazardous waste collection sites
  – Residential special waste pickup services
  – Mail-back programs
  – Syringe exchange programs
  – Home needle destruction devices

• Communities may implement several options
New California Law

SB 1305 signed into law in 2006:
- Prohibits disposal of home-generated sharps in solid waste and recycling containers
- Ban starts September 2008
- Communities are encouraged to implement programs
- Mail-back system is one program to consider implementing and promote prior to the ban
The Sharps Disposal by Mail System®:
- Containers available to residents at local pharmacies
- Resident fills container with used sharps
- Resident mails container to Sharps Compliance in postage pre-paid mailing box
Benefits of Disposal by Mail:

- Convenient (local pharmacy distribution)
- Containers are part of JIT inventory
- Transportation via the U.S. Postal Service
- Access to proper disposal directly from home (vs. storing sharps and driving to drop-off sites)
- Protects privacy
Cost Effective Program for Residents:

- Sharps Compliance can help set up a “Group Plan” for your community
- Containers can be dispensed by participating pharmacies at no cost or for a small co-pay to users
- Ex: allow 3 containers per year per resident
- First container FREE, second and third containers cost $5 co-pay
How the Program Works:
- Product dispensed by pharmacies
- Pharmacies will bill for reimbursement through a third-party administrator (just like a prescription drug plan)
- unique group number assigned
- Fund and billing mechanism must be established with the community
- Reports available through third-party administrator (no names are divulged)
Current Participants

• **Mail Back Programs in California:**
  - Mission Viejo
  - Laguna Beach
  - Lake County
  - Indian Wells
  - Diamond Bar
  - Indio
  - Dana Point
  - L.A. County (a portion of unincorporated area)

• **Approved but Not Implemented**
  - Santa Ana
• Program implemented January 2007 through pharmacies in Lake County
• Program underwritten by Lake County Public Services Department
• During 2007 a total of 260 containers were dispensed through the pharmacies
• By January 2008, 49.2% had already been treated
Resident Benefits

- Protects family and community
- Easy to use
- Convenient
- Confidential
- Cost-effective
- Access to safe disposal from the privacy of their home
City/Government Benefits

- Hands-off approach – no administration, monitoring, inventory management
- No additional permitting or training (HHW drop-off sites)
- Environmentally conscious solution
- Confidential – HIPPA laws
- Compliant with EPA guidelines and new pending legislation
Conclusion

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