

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Contact:**

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**Dispose of your unused medication at free event Saturday in Eau Claire, Altoona**

**Eau Claire, April 22, 2024** – Have leftover or unused medications? Don't keep them around – drop them off for free disposal at convenient locations in Eau Claire or Altoona this Saturday, April 27, National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day.

Keeping unused medications inside your house makes it more likely other people may find and misuse them, which could lead to an overdose or accidental poisoning. Disposing of your unused medications could help save a life.

The drug take-back event will be held **this Saturday, April 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** at the **Altoona Emergency Services building** (1904 Spooner Ave.) and at the **Eau Claire County Government Center** (721 Oxford Ave., in front of the main courthouse entrance). Curbside drop-off will be available at the Eau Claire location.

Drop-off is easy, anonymous, fast, and free. Check your medicine cabinet, find what you no longer need, remove or cover up any personal information on the prescription label, and drop the medications off at the Altoona or Eau Claire site.

You are welcome to drop off prescription and over-the-counter medications, ointments, patches, non-aerosol sprays, inhalers, creams, vials, and even pet medications.

- Blister packages are acceptable if the medications haven't been removed.
- Liquid medications, creams, and sprays must be in their original packaging.

Since 2012, over 39,000 pounds of medication have been gathered in Eau Claire County from Take-Back events and permanent medication drop boxes.

"Take a few minutes this Saturday to safely dispose of unused or expired medications at one of the two drop-off locations in our county," says Sarah Dillivan-Pospisil, Public Health Specialist with the Eau Claire City-County Health Department. "This is an easy way to remove medications from your home, which prevents younger children or pets from finding and accidentally consuming the medication."

If you can't participate on Saturday, don't flush your medication! In **Eau Claire County, 10 permanent medication drop boxes are available year-round.** Find a drop box near you by visiting [www.ECHealthAlliance.org/resources](http://www.ECHealthAlliance.org/resources) and scrolling to "Drug take-back locations in Eau Claire County."

*The National Prescription Drug Take-Back event is hosted by the Wisconsin Department of Justice and the Drug Enforcement Administration, and is coordinated locally by the Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office, Altoona Police Department, Eau Claire City-County Health Department, and the Eau Claire Health Alliance coalition.*