



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dispose of unused or expired medications at drive-thru event Saturday in Eau Claire and Altoona

Eau Claire, October 21, 2024 – It's time to clean out your medicine cabinet! Have leftover or unused medications? Instead of keeping them around, drop them off for free disposal in Eau Claire or Altoona this Saturday, October 26, National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day.

The take-back event will be held **from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** at the **Altoona Emergency Services building** (1904 Spooner Ave., follow signs on the east side of the building) 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 both locations.

Drop-off is easy, anonymous, fast, and free. Find the medications you no longer need and remove or cover up any personal information on the prescription label. Drive up to a drop-off site in Eau Claire or Altoona, and a volunteer will collect your medications from your vehicle for safe disposal.

You can drop off prescription and over-the-counter medications, ointments, patches, non-aerosol sprays, inhalers, creams, vials, pet medications, and sharps. Only one container of sharps per household will be accepted at the October event. More information:

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

Take-Back events are an important opportunity to get unused medication out of homes. Keeping unused medications in your living space increases the risk that other people may find and misuse them.

Since 2012, over 41,600 pounds of medication have been gathered in Eau Claire County from Take-Back events and permanent medication drop boxes.

"It's critically important to dispose of medication you're no longer using," says Sarah Dillivan-Pospisil, Public Health Specialist with the Eau Claire City-County Health Department. "When you keep unused medication in your medicine cabinet or bathroom closet, other people, kids, and pets are more likely to find and misuse it – which could lead to an overdose or accidental poisoning. Disposing of your medication could help save a life."

If you can't participate on Saturday, don't flush your medication or toss it in the garbage! In Eau Claire County, **11 permanent medication drop boxes are available year-round.** Find a drop box near you by visiting 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.