



www.MedicationCleanout.com

Texas Panhandle Poison Center

1501 S. Coulter

Amarillo, TX 79106

(806) 351-5626



Dear Valued Event Participant,

We regret that we are currently prohibited from collecting items that are not generated by residential households. While it is our desire to properly dispose of any unused or expired medications in a safe manner, medications that are generated by healthcare facilities or other institutions including physician offices, clinics, and nursing homes, are regulated by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) in terms of handling and disposal. In contrast, items generated from households are exempt from RCRA provisions (disposal < \$1 per pound to incinerate).

If we mix the two types of items, all collections would have to be managed according to RCRA which would require that we either classify and dispose of all items as hazardous (up to \$8 per pound to incinerate) or separate all medications that are P-listed or U-listed or have characteristics consistent with hazardous wastes (ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, or toxicity). Those separated items would then also have to be disposed of at the higher hazardous waste disposal fee.

Because both our financial and human resources are limited, we are unable to include the collection of medications generated outside of households. We understand the challenges faced by these facilities and we empathize. In fact, we currently have an employee who is participating as a member of the Pharmaceutical Disposal Advisory Group of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). In response to Senate Bill 1757, TCEQ is conducting a study and will be developing "recommendations regarding the methods used by consumers, health care providers, and others for disposing of unused pharmaceuticals..."

Should you wish to share your experience with difficulties in disposing of unused medications from your facility, you may send a letter to:

Elston Johnson
Manager, Public Drinking Water Section (Mail Code 155)
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
12100 Park 35 Circle
Austin, Texas 78753

Again, we apologize for any inconvenience this has created.

Sincerely,

Medication Cleanout™ Team