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IPC Encourages Illinoisans to Turn in Old and Unwanted Medications on September 29

DEA to coordinate more than 200 drop-off sites in Illinois on National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day.

(Chicago) September 25, 2012 – The Illinois Poison Center is encouraging Illinoisans to take part in National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day on Saturday, September 29 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This initiative, sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), provides people with a safe, environmentally-friendly way to dispose of their expired or unneeded prescription medication.

“Every survey on drug abuse shows that prescription drug abusers most commonly obtain controlled substances by raiding the medicine cabinets of their family, friends or acquaintances,” said Dr. Michael Wahl, Medical Director, Illinois Poison Center. “Properly disposing of old or unwanted medications is a good way to help prevent prescription drug abuse.”

On September 29, the DEA will coordinate more than 200 collection sites throughout Illinois where people can anonymously dispose of medications. Drugs collected at drop-off sites will be inactivated and incinerated, ensuring that the drugs are not abused and that they do not end up in our rivers, lakes or drinking water.

During the last National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day in April, 2012, citizens across the country turned in more than 552,000 pounds of medications.

[Click here](#) to find a drop-off site near you.

The Illinois Poison Center is committed to reducing the misuse of prescription medications and to educating the public about proper medication disposal methods. To read more about the Illinois Poison Center’s guidelines for disposing of medications, [click here](#).

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The Illinois Poison Center is a non-profit health service that provides the people of Illinois with comprehensive and trusted information and treatment advice on potentially harmful substances via a free, confidential 24-hour hotline staffed by specially trained doctors, nurses and pharmacists. The IPC is a program of the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council.