

## **Groups launch website to manage unused medicines**

April 20 -- The National Community Pharmacists Association and Sharps Compliance Inc. have launched a new website to help divert prescription drugs from being flushed down the drain or being sent to landfills, where the compounds can leach into the groundwater.

The website, [www.disposemy meds.org](http://www.disposemy meds.org), is part of the organization's national campaign. The site allows consumers to search for pharmacy disposal programs by state, city or zip code.

The organizations said up to 200 million pounds of dispensed pharmaceuticals aren't used each year. These unused drugs can lead to accidental poisonings, and chemicals from flushed or landfilled pharmaceuticals have been found in the drinking water of more than 50 million Americans.

"Safe and practical disposal programs make a real difference in addressing this growing public health concern," said Joseph H. Harmison, PD, NCPA president and pharmacy owner in Arlington, Texas. "I commend these pharmacies for stepping up for the good of their communities and their patients. And, hopefully, consumers will gain a greater appreciation of their local community pharmacy. I also appreciate the support our allies and sponsors have shown for this effort."

"We are proud to work with NCPA and its membership to more efficiently and effectively address the problem pharmacists, patients and communities face with unused patient medication," said Claude A. Dance, Sharps Compliance Inc. senior vice president of sales and marketing.

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