



UNITED STATES OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Washington, DC 20415

The Director

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR: CHIEF HUMAN CAPITAL OFFICERS

FROM: Chuck Rosenberg, Acting Administrator, Drug Enforcement Administration
Kathleen M. McGettigan, Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management
Richard J. Baum, Acting Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy

Subject: National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day, April 29, 2017

The Drug Enforcement Administration in partnership with the U.S. Office of Personnel Management and the Office of National Drug Control Policy, urges all federal employees and their friends and families to participate in the National Prescription Drug “Take-Back” Day on Saturday, April 29, 2017, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Individuals wishing to dispose of their medications safely and anonymously can find a collection location at: https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has declared prescription drug abuse an epidemic, with more people dying from drug overdoses than in motor vehicle crashes. In 2015 alone, 33,091 people died from overdoses involving some type of opioid, including heroin. Additionally, a study in 2016 estimates that 100 million opioid pills prescribed to patients following surgical removal of impacted wisdom teeth are not used, leaving the door open for possible abuse or misuse by patients, or their friends or family. These statistics show the value of proper prescription drug disposal as a key strategy for preventing prescription drug abuse.

Americans participating in the DEA’s 12th National Prescription Drug “Take-Back” Day on October 22, 2016, turned in 731,269 pounds of unwanted or expired medications for safe and proper disposal at 5,178 take-back sites in all 50 states and U.S. territories. This brought the total amount of drugs collected to 7,202,977 pounds or 3,601 tons.

We encourage you to join this commitment to improving public health and safety by participating and inviting others – friends, family, and neighbors – to take part in the 13th National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day on April 29, 2017.