



UNITED STATES OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT
Washington, DC 20415

The Director

Thursday, April 17, 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief Human Capital Officers

FROM: Katherine Archuleta, Director
Michael Botticelli, Acting Director of National Drug Control Policy
Michele M. Leonhart, Administrator, Drug Enforcement Administration

Subject: National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day, Saturday, April 26, 2014

The U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM), in partnership with the Office of National Drug Control Policy and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), urges all Federal employees to participate in the National Prescription Drug “Take-Back” Day on Saturday, April 26, 2014, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Individuals wishing to dispose of their medications can find a collection location at: www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has declared prescription drug abuse and its consequences an epidemic, with more people dying from drug overdoses, primarily driven by prescription drug abuse, than in motor vehicle crashes. In 2010, 22,134 people died from overdoses involving prescription drugs. Furthermore, 69 percent of people abusing prescription pain relievers in 2012 got them through friends or relatives the most recent time they used them, a statistic that includes raiding the family medicine cabinet. For these reasons, proper drug disposal is a key element of the Administration’s Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Plan and an important way that each of us can contribute to this effort.

Americans participating in the DEA’s seventh National Prescription Drug “Take-Back Day” on October 26, 2013, turned in 647,211 pounds of unwanted or expired medications for safe and proper disposal at more than 5,683 take-back sites in all 50 states and U.S. territories. The October 2013 event resulted in the second largest collection of medications in the seven National Take Back Days.

One of OPM’s top priorities is to ensure the health and well-being of Federal employees. 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 National Prescription Drug “Take-Back” Day on Saturday, April 26, 2014.