



UNITED STATES OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT  
Washington, DC 20415

The Director

Monday, April 8, 2019

**MEMORANDUM FOR: CHIEF HUMAN CAPITAL OFFICERS**

FROM: UTTAM DHILLON, ACTING ADMINISTRATOR, U.S. DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY  
MARGARET M. WEICHERT, ACTING DIRECTOR, U.S. OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT  
JAMES W. CARROLL, JR., DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY

Subject: National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, Saturday April 27, 2019  
Federal Prescription Drug Take Back Day, Wednesday April 24, 2019

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, in partnership with the U.S. Office of Personnel Management and the Office of National Drug Control Policy, invites the public to participate in the 17<sup>th</sup> National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, April 27, 2019, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Federal employees in the Washington, DC, area may also participate in the Federal Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Wednesday, April 24, 2019 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: [www.DEADiversion.usdoj.gov/drug\\_disposal/takeback](http://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 since 2009. In 2017 alone, 47,600 people died from overdoses involving some type of opioid. A paper published in the Journal of the American Medical Association studied past research on medical trials and found that 42 percent to 71 percent of opioids prescribed for acute post-surgical pain were not consumed, at least 67 percent of patients had leftover medicine, and no more than nine percent of the patients with leftover medicine disposed of it properly.\* These statistics show the value of proper prescription drug disposal as a key strategy for potentially preventing prescription drug abuse.

Americans participating in the DEA's 16<sup>th</sup> National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on October 27, 2018, turned in 914,236 pounds of unwanted or expired medications for safe and proper disposal at 5,839 take-back sites in all 50 states and U.S. territories. Consequently, as of

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\* Mark C. Bicket, MD; Jane J. Long, BS; Peter J. Pronovost, MD, PhD; G. Caleb Alexander, MD, MS; Christopher L. Wu, MD; "Prescription Opioid Analgesics Commonly Unused After Surgery Review", *Journal of the American Medical Association, JAMA Surgery*, (2017), pages E1-E6.

October 27, 2018, this brought the total amount of drugs collected for disposal by this program to 10,878,950 pounds or 5,439 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 17<sup>th</sup> National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, April 27, 2019 and the Federal Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Wednesday, April 24, 2019.

cc: Deputy Chief Human Capital Officers and Human Resources Directors