



# Unused Pharmaceuticals

What's Happening Legislatively

# Reasons for addressing the problem of Unused Pharmaceuticals

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- To reduce accidental childhood poisonings
- To reduce teenage pharming and household medicine cabinet burglary and theft
- To reduce accumulation amongst the elderly and concomitant adverse drug reactions from confusing left-overs and unused medicines
- To address waste from excessive prescribing, inefficient insurance policies, and compliance factors resulting in wasted health care dollars and taxpayer resources.
- To reduce environmental impact
- To reduce inappropriate international and national drug donations resulting in need for expensive disposal operations

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- U.S. Spending on pharmaceuticals projected to top \$229 Billion in 2007
  - An estimated 90% of Americans take one or more prescriptions in a year



# STATE LEGISLATION 2007

- 500 pharmaceutical bills and resolutions filed in 2007
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- Topics include:

Expanding Access: discount & Subsidy programs

Marketing & Advertising

Privacy and Data Mining

Medicare Part D Wrap Around Benefits

Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs)

Electronic Monitoring and Internet Prescribing

Prescription Drug reuse/recycling/disposal

# State Legislation

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## For Unused Prescriptions:

- Allowing or encouraging donation of unused pharmaceuticals
- Cancer drug repositories
- Return for redistribution in correctional facilities
- Disposal as relates to facilities
- General Household pharmaceutical waste disposal



# Household Pharmaceutical Waste

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- California: SB 966 Sen. Simitian

Requires every retailer of pharmaceutical drugs to have a system for acceptance and collection of pharmaceutical drugs for proper waste disposal

*Passed Senate; passed Assembly  
9/7/07 sent to Governor.*



# Household Pharmaceutical Waste

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- Maine: LD 411 Rep. Perry

Provides \$150,000 match funding for MDEA and Center of Aging pilot for return of unused household pharmaceuticals by mail consistent with the recommendations of the Maine Drug Return Implementation Group established in Public Law 2003, Chapter 679

*Signed into Law by Governor 6/29/72*

# Household Pharmaceutical Waste

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- New York: AB840 Englebright

Prohibits the disposal of drugs as solid waste in a landfill;

Requires manufacturers to establish drug collection programs to accept unused or expired drugs from consumers:

Requires consumers to return drugs to such a drug collection program;

# Household Pharmaceutical Waste

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- New York: AB840 (Continued)

All drugs collected by a manufacturer shall be disposed of in an environmentally sound manner

Directs the department of environmental conservation to establish and implement a public information program on the proper disposal of drugs;

Requires pharmacies and other retailers to post information on the proper use, storage and disposal of drugs.

*1/3/07 Referred to Environmental Conservation*

# 2007: ONDCP ISSUES NEW GUIDELINES FOR PROPER DISPOSAL OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

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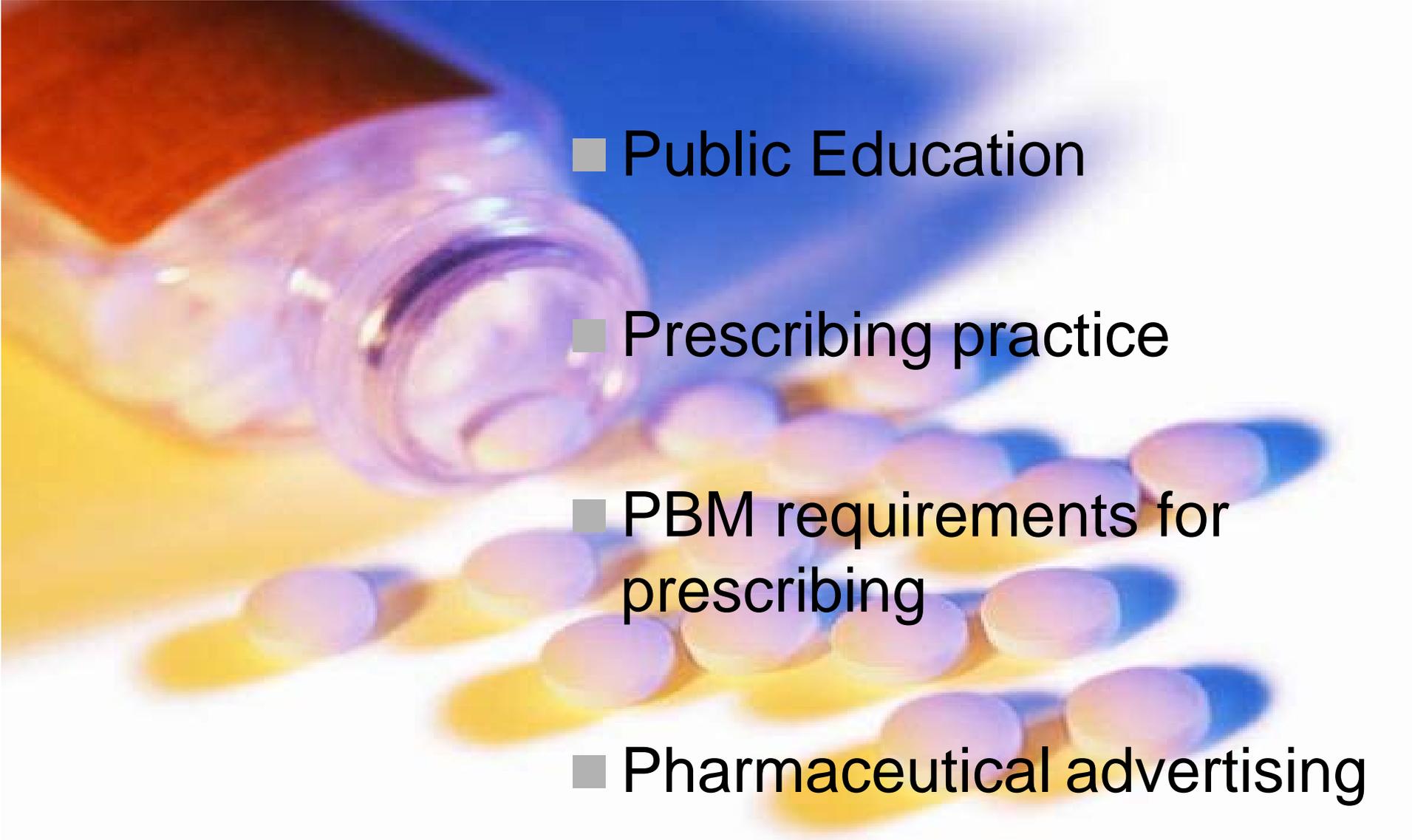
- Take unused, unneeded, or expired prescription drugs out of their original containers
- Mix the prescription drugs with an undesirable substance, like used coffee grounds or kitty litter, and put them in impermeable, non-descript containers, such as empty cans or sealable bags, further ensuring that the drugs are not diverted or accidentally ingested by children or pets
- Throw these containers in the trash
- Flush prescription drugs down the toilet only if the accompanying patient information specifically instructs it is safe to do so
- Return unused, unneeded, or expired prescription drugs to pharmaceutical take-back locations that allow the public to bring unused drugs to a central location for safe disposal

# Athens Declaration

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- At the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Environment in the City of Athens
- Unanimously voted to address citizen unused drug disposal.

# Addressing Pharmaceutical Waste

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- Public Education
  - Prescribing practice
  - PBM requirements for prescribing
  - Pharmaceutical advertising