



DoD INSTRUCTION 6025.25

DRUG TAKE BACK PROGRAM

Originating Component: Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness

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Releasability: Cleared for public release. Available on the DoD Issuances Website at <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives>.

Approved by: Peter Levine, Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness

Purpose: This issuance:

- In accordance with the authority in DoD Directive 5124.02, establishes policy and assigns responsibilities for developing, publishing, and implementing procedural guidance for a Drug Take Back Program throughout the Military Health System, in accordance with Parts 1300-1321 of Title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, also known and referred to in this issuance as the “Controlled Substances Act.”
- Provides the policy foundation to establish drug take back programs that will provide members or beneficiaries of the uniformed services and their dependents with a prompt, safe, and effective method for disposing of unused, unwanted, and expired medications in order to avoid their potential for misuse, diversion, or accidental poisoning.

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SECTION 1: GENERAL ISSUANCE INFORMATION

1.1. APPLICABILITY. This issuance applies to OSD, the Military Departments, the Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Joint Staff, the Combatant Commands, the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, the Defense Agencies, the DoD Field Activities, and all other organizational entities within the DoD.

1.2. POLICY. It is DoD policy that:

a. Eligible medical treatment facilities (MTFs) in the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, and other U.S. territories will provide drug take back programs for beneficiaries to properly dispose of their controlled, non-controlled, and over-the-counter medications.

b. Outside of the continental United States, MTFs will continue to operate under the medication disposal regulations of their host nations.

c. The Military Services will ensure drug take back methods (e.g., collection receptacles) at eligible MTFs meet the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) rule on the Disposal of Controlled Substances in the Controlled Substances Act and in a manner compliant with all applicable federal, State, and local environmental, fiscal, and transportation regulations.

(1) Under the household hazardous waste exemption in Section 261.4(b)(1) of Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, hazardous wastes generated by households are not subject to the federal hazardous waste regulations. The October 2, 2015 United States Environmental Protection Agency Memorandum extends this exemption to any household wastes collected during community-oriented take back events or DEA compliant drug take back programs, as long as these collected household hazardous wastes are managed separately from hazardous wastes pharmaceuticals from health care facilities.

(2) While collected household hazardous wastes are not regulated under the federal standards, more stringent State standards may apply.

d. Eligible MTFs will modify their current registration with the DEA to become authorized as collectors. In cases in which the installation has multiple MTFs serving the same population, component discretion may be used to specify the MTFs to be authorized as collectors.

SECTION 2: RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR HEALTH AFFAIRS (ASD(HA)).

Under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, the ASD(HA) monitors DoD compliance with this issuance.

2.2. DIRECTOR, DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY (DHA). Under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, through the ASD(HA), the Director, DHA:

a. In coordination with the Secretaries of the Military Departments, develops and issues procedural guidance to ensure implementation, maintenance, and establishment of the Military Services' compliance reporting requirements of the Drug Take Back Program within the Military Health System, in accordance with the procedures in Volume 1 of DoD Manual 8910.01.

b. Directs the TRICARE regional offices to coordinate with their managed care contractors to implement a public information and messaging campaign regarding the use of the Drug Take Back Program (specifically, the disposal of unused medications) to reach those beneficiaries who may not be reached through MTF messaging efforts.

c. Implement a drug take back program in MTFs in the National Capital Region that are under the authority of the DHA.

2.3. SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS. The Secretaries of the Military Departments:

a. Establish policies and procedures necessary for Service implementation of the requirements of this issuance, in accordance with DHA procedural guidance.

b. Establish Service-level processes for data collection and monitoring to ensure that the standardized reporting requirements issued in the DHA procedural guidance are met.

c. Ensure that Service members, their dependents, and unit commanders receive sufficient information and guidance, through a public information and messaging campaign, to successfully implement and sustain the Drug Take Back Program.

d. Coordinate funding within their respective Military Department to ensure funding for implementation and sustainment of the Drug Take Back Program, in compliance with this issuance.

GLOSSARY

G.1. ACRONYMS.

ASD(HA)	Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs
DEA	Drug Enforcement Administration
DHA	Defense Health Agency
MTF	medical treatment facility

G.2. DEFINITIONS. Unless otherwise noted, these terms and their definitions are for the purposes of this issuance.

beneficiaries. Individuals eligible for health care services under Chapter 55 of Title 10, United States Code.

collectors. Registered manufacturers, distributors, reverse distributors, narcotic treatment programs, hospitals/clinics with an on-site pharmacy, and retail pharmacies authorized to receive a controlled substance for the purpose of destruction from an ultimate user, person lawfully entitled to dispose of an ultimate user decedent's property, or a long term care facility on behalf of an ultimate user that resides or has resided at that facility.

controlled drugs. Drugs and other substances that are considered controlled substances under the Controlled Substances Act. A complete list is provided in Sections 1308.11-1308.15 of Title 21, Code of Federal Regulations.

eligible MTFs. MTFs that are registered with the DEA to be collectors.

non-controlled drugs. Pharmaceutical preparations that can only be obtained through a practitioner's prescription dispensed by a pharmacist and are not considered controlled substances under the Controlled Substances Act.

over-the-counter drugs. Medications available without a prescription.

TRICARE. Defined in section 1072 of Title 10, United States Code. .

REFERENCES

Code of Federal Regulations, Title 21, Parts 1300-1321 (also known as the “Controlled Substances Act”)

Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40

DoD Directive 5124.02, “Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R)),” June 23, 2008

DoD Manual 8910.01, Volume 1, “DoD Information Collections Manual: Procedures for DoD Internal Information Collections,” June 30, 2014

United States Code, Title 10

United States Environmental Protection Agency Memorandum, “Household Hazardous Waste Exemption for Pharmaceuticals Collected via DEA Approved Take-back or Collection Programs,” October 2015