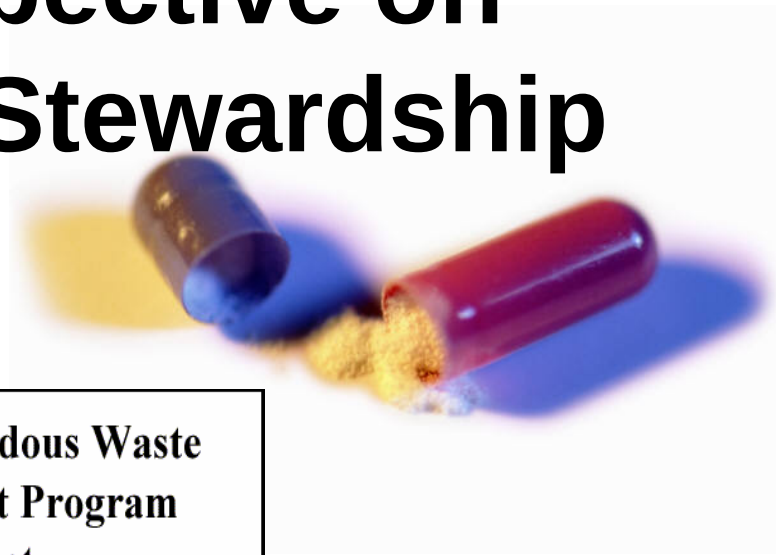
Washington State: King County's Perspective on Pharmaceutical Stewardship

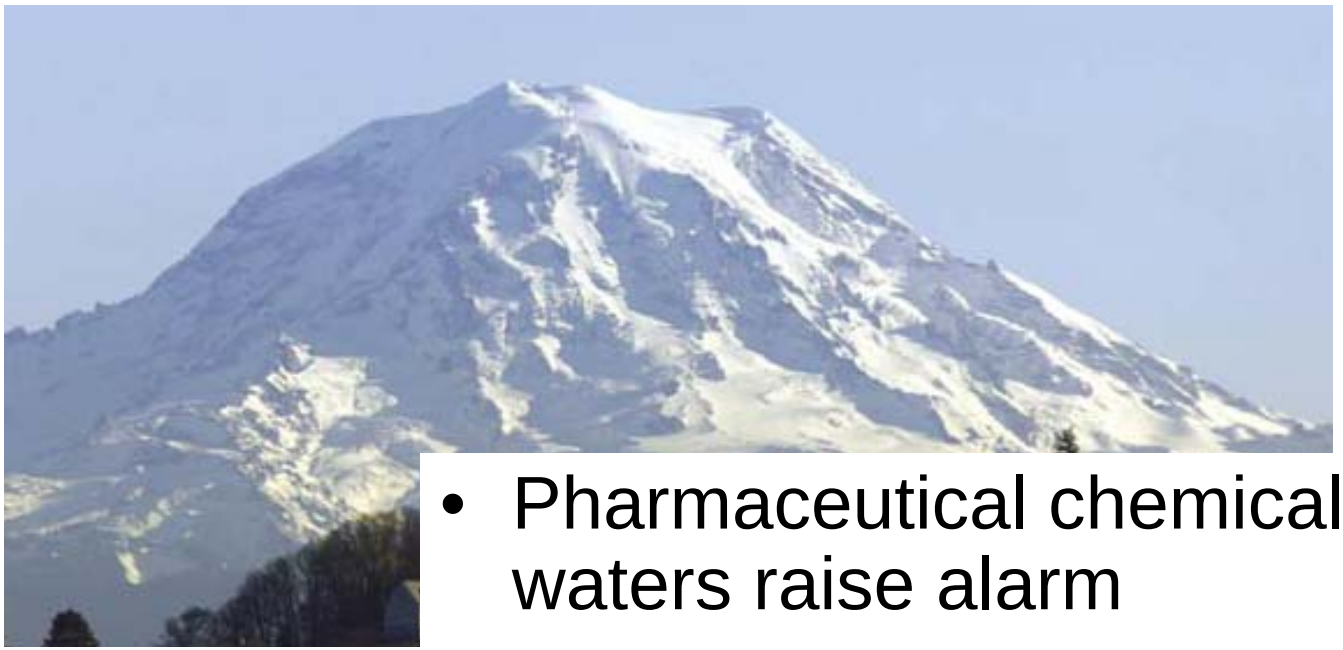


Dave Galvin

Local Hazardous Waste Management Program In King County

Seattle, WA

Washington/King County/Seattle concerns



- Pharmaceutical chemicals in national waters raise alarm
- Some local data confirm presence in streams, groundwater, wastewater
- Very “green” population
- High precautionary interest

Concerns (cont'd)

- How much of pharmaceuticals sold go unused?
  - Could be as much as 50%?
  - A substantial waste management issue
  - Data or reliable estimates needed by type of medication

Concerns (cont'd)

- How much of unused pharmaceuticals sold are controlled substances?
  - WA Board of Pharmacy estimates range from 10% to 24%
  - This is potentially a significant amount requiring segregation and special handling
  - These substances are all mixed in with other pharms, no simple way to keep separate

Concerns (cont'd)

- How much of unused pharmaceuticals sold designate as hazardous waste?
  - 10+% of total volume
  - More for state-only
  - P-listed, U-listed, ignitable, toxic, corrosive, reactive

Concerns (cont'd)

- How much of unused pharmaceuticals sold designate as hazardous waste?
  - Examples: Epinephrine, Nitroglycerin, Warfarin, Chlorambucil, Lindane, Rubbing Alcohol, Glacial Acetic Acid, Mercury (thimerosal)

Concerns (cont'd)

- How best to handle old, unused, waste pharms?
  - HHW collection services already swamped, not appropriate for medications
  - Strong interest in a product stewardship approach
  - Willing partners in local pharmacies

Concerns (cont'd)

- Most pharmaceuticals simply don't belong in the environment
  - There is something not right about finding ibuprofen, Prozac, EDCs in streams, lakes, Puget Sound
  - Precaution is warranted

Washington collection projects

- Clark County (Vancouver, WA, area)
  - Collect waste pharmaceuticals at HHW centers, local retail pharmacies since 2003
  - Collect controlled substances at Sheriff's Office
  - Very low participation, quantities to date

Washington Collection Projects

- Retail Pharmacy Take-Back in Seattle/King County area
  - In development with chain of retail stores and local HMO

BARTELL DRUGS
Washington's Own Drugstores

GroupHealth
COOPERATIVE

Immediate challenges

- Who should take possession of waste pharmaceuticals:
  - pharmacist, wholesaler, reverse distributor, waste mgmt authority, sheriff?
- Container design to restrict access
- HIPAA considerations
- Handling controlled substances
  - DEA pilot waiver? Sheriff-owned containers?

Immediate challenges (cont'd)

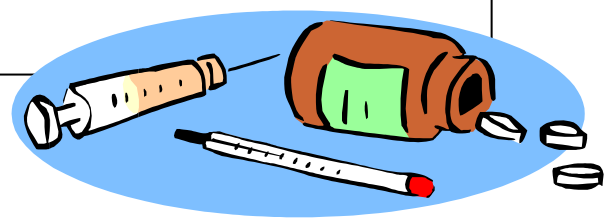
- How to separate out hazardous wastes from non-hazardous?
- Who becomes the designated generator of the waste?
- How best to destroy?
- Who pays?

National pharm-waste listserv

Pharmwaste -- national pharmaceut

About Pharmwaste

Proper disposal of pharmaceutical waste is an emerging issu
compounds are found in waterways across the country. This
discuss and track ideas, projects, grants, and other issues. P
agencies, but others are welcome to join.



- http://lists.dep.state.fl.us/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/pharmwaste
- Laurie.Tenace@dep.state.fl.us

Product Stewardship Project

- New project at PSI
- National dialogue of stakeholders
- Creation of product stewardship-based "action plan" and agreements
- http://www.productstewardship.us

PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP INSTITUTE

Sustainable Solutions to Protect Our Environment

Product Stewardship: Australia

- http://www.returnmed.com.au/

Product Stewardship: British Columbia, Canada

Waste Management Act

POST-CONSUMER RESIDUAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM REGULATION

[includes amendments up to B.C. Reg. 21

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Part 3 — Stewardship Requirements

8 Application of stewardship requirements

Product Category
Solvent and flammable liquids
Pesticide
Gasoline
Pharmaceutical
Lubricating oil
Empty oil container
Oil filter
Paint

Product Stewardship: British Columbia, Canada

- http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/epd/epdpa/ips/meds/index.html

BRITISH COLUMBIA

In Summary…

- We need a comprehensive U.S. solution to pharmaceutical waste management
  - It should not be left up to local government to solve, fund
- Product stewardship approach is essential
  - Retail take-back or mail-in, manufacturers pay
- EPA and DEA must provide leadership, help solve this national problem

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