

EXPANDING MEDICATION REPOSITORY PROGRAM

-Minnesota

Public-Health Advocacy Student Alliance



Medication repository programs have the ability to

- Lower the cost of medications for indigents for Minnesota.
- Improve health outcomes of Minnesota residents due to increased medication adherence due to higher medication availability and lower costs.
- Lower the overall healthcare cost to the state by reducing healthcare problems related to adherence (saves taxpayer funding).
- Removes pollutants from environment.

Public Health

It's estimated the long term care (LTC) facilities waste two billion dollars of medications each year. Colorado alone estimated that their 220 LTC facilities throw away \$ 10 million (17.5 tons) worth of potentially reusable medications a year. There are 365 LTC facilities within Minnesota. In 2015 the United States had over 1 million Americans that could not receive the medications they needed due to costs. Non-adherence is said to cost the United States health care system \$100-290 billion every year. This proposal could improve patient health within Minnesota by expanding access of care to patients in economic need. Medication recycling programs allow for more patients to receive the medications they need but can't afford while also reducing medication waste.

Environment

Problem: The Environmental Protection Agency estimated in 2015 that about 740 tons of drugs are wasted by nursing homes each year through out America.

Many LTC facilities, in Minnesota specifically, are mixing unwanted non-scheduled medications with coffee grounds, this is an ineffective measure which ultimately still results in detrimental environmental effects through landfills and water supply

Safety Regulations

Solution/Success: In Wyoming Since July 2008, the program has processed over 88,000 pounds of donated medications and medical supplies for redistribution. Thus keeping 88,000 pounds of medications from polluting their streams and landfills.

1. Is in unopened, tamper-evident packaging;
2. Is not adulterated or misbranded;
3. Is not a controlled substance;
4. Is not expired;
5. Is a solid room temperature oral product (unless donated from manufacturer)

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