

Please Read
Survey Instructions and Informed Consent
Safe Medicine Disposal for ME Program

As an older adult or caregiver for an older adult, you are being given the opportunity to safely and properly dispose of your unused medicine at no cost. As a participant taking advantage of this service, you are offered the opportunity to tell us more about the medicine you are returning and the reason for disposal. The University of Maine Center on Aging, the Maine Benzodiazepine Study Group under the direction of Dr. Lenard Kaye and Stevan Gressitt, MD, and the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency have received a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to offer this medicine return program. We will be studying the types of unused medicines older adults and their caregivers are interested in disposing.

As a medicine return program participant, you are invited to take part in this important research currently being done throughout Maine. Information collected from the survey provided will also tell us more about the reasons for disposal and the types of medicines that are piling up in homes across the State. Research findings will help us to design more medicine disposal opportunities for Maine residents.

If you would like to contribute to this research, please take a moment to complete the enclosed survey.

What will you be asked to do?

If you decide to participate in the research, you will be asked to complete the enclosed survey. It will take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete this survey. Please return the survey in the pre-paid envelope provided along with the medicines you are returning. You may skip any questions you do not want to answer.

Risks of participating in the survey

- Except for your time and inconvenience, participation presents no more risk than you would normally experience throughout the course of your day.

Benefits of participating in the survey

- There is no immediate benefit to you for taking the survey.

Confidentiality

This survey is anonymous. The information you provide on your survey will be kept private. Only the Center on Aging staff and staff from the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency will have access to your returned survey. **Please do not write your name on your survey.** All surveys will be collected by the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency and stored in a locked facility. All surveys will be sent to the Center on Aging for secure storage and reporting.

We will not collect personal information from returned medicine bottles (name, physician, etc.). If you wish to black out your name and personal information on the medicine bottle, be sure to leave the medicine name and quantity visible. This will help us identify the medicine for research and disposal. Information you provide on the survey will be linked to information on the type and amount of medicine you returned. At the conclusion of the study, medicine and containers will be destroyed.

All returned medicine will be destroyed in an environmentally friendly way by the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency.

Any quotes or information used in reports and papers about this research will not be linked to your personal information. The survey you provide us will be kept indefinitely by the Center on Aging.

Voluntary

Your participation in this research is voluntary. You may choose to participate or not participate. You may skip any questions you do not wish to answer. You do not need to fill out a survey in order to return medicine.

Along with this information sheet you will find the survey that we are asking you to complete. Completing the survey and returning it in the envelope provided along with the medicine you are returning will let us know that you want to be a part of this research.

Contact Information

If you have questions about the survey you may reach the Project's Principal Investigator, Dr. Lenard Kaye, at 207-262-7922 or len.kaye@umit.maine.edu. If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, please contact Gayle Anderson, Assistant to the University of Maine's Protection of Human Subjects Review Board, at 207-581-1498 or e-mail gayle.anderson@umit.maine.edu.

Thank you!