

## UNUSED AND EXPIRED MEDICINES REGISTRY (UEMR)

UEMR is developed through the collaboration with Community Medical Foundation for Patient Safety, Maine Benzodiazepine Study Group, the Northeast Occupational Exchange, and the University of Maine Center for Aging. The systematic collection and safe disposal of unused and expired medicines (UEM) is an important aim of these organizations for the purpose of improving patient safety and public health. The UEMR is intended as a focal point for a national effort and program to remove unwanted medicines from medicine cabinets and drawers. This program will result in prevention or reduction of nonintentional ingestion and overdose of medicine among children, medication error among the elderly, inappropriate use of medicines, drug abuse, drug diversion from the home to the streets, as well as the contamination of our water supplies when these medicines are often flushed down the sink or toilet.

Data collected through the UEMR will help researchers, physicians, drug manufacturers, pharmacists, and health policy makers better understand the diverse impact of unwanted medicines in order to improve pharmacy policy, patient safety and health education, and options for more appropriate prescription of medicines. The electronic, online Registry is under implementation, and it is hoped that a broad array of involvement will ensure balance, utility, and value of the Registry. If you have comments about or suggestions for the UEMR, or if you wish to make a contribution to support the UEMR, [Contact Us](#).

While it is not required, we highly recommend that collectors voluntarily provide information to the UEMR on the medicines they collect. To submit data to the UEMR, select the appropriate forms below, complete the forms, and email (or mail) the completed forms to the Foundation.

UEMR provides users the options among three versions of forms used to collect and submit data from organized return-drug or take-back programs. Only **Version 1** is used for anonymous return and is available to the public with no charge. **Version 2** is a research form with a short questionnaire. **Version 3** is an extended research form with a questionnaire and the only form that asks for personal identifiers. These forms help us standardize the quality and format of the data for the Registry, so the information can be used by everyone. Version 2 and Version 3 Forms are protected; permission must be requested for access.

To support and promote the UEMR, we developed a community-based campaign the ***Get Rid of Unused Pharmaceuticals® (GROUP) Program*** to increase awareness about the dangers of UEM and to assist individuals and organizations in planning and implementing a take-back program to safely and legally collect and dispose of UEM. Under our [Professional Services](#), our Foundation provides technical and administrative assistance through our comprehensive procedure and training manual, certification process, documentation, educational materials, and printed informational brochures. For more details, see **GROUP Manual of Procedures** under [Resources & Services--Patient Safety Products--Publications](#).

### UEMR Data Collection Instruments (Forms):

#### [Version 1: GROUP Return Medicines Form \(Individual Anonymous\)](#)

This simple form is used most frequently for a take-back program. Individuals can download this form or pick up the form in advance, complete it anonymously at home or at the collection site. No personal identifiers, such as name and address, are recorded. One line is used to write down each medicine. Information requested include: 1) zip code, 2) date of return, 3) name of medicine, 4) strength of medicine, 5) quantity of medicine returned, 6) where did the person get the medicine?, 7) why the medicine was returned?, and 8) list side effects if

medicine was returned because of adverse side effects. Individuals turn in the completed forms and their unused and expired medicines at the collection site. An informational brochure with this form is available under [Patient Safety Products](#). This brochure can be distributed before the collection event and returned completed with the unused and expired medicines.

### **Version 2: GROUP Individual Anonymous Return Form with Questionnaire**

In addition to the same Version 1: *GROUP* Return Medicines Form, this research version has a questionnaire to ascertain more information about the individuals returning their medicines and their knowledge of the issues concerning unused and expired medicines. Again, this form is completely anonymous, and no personal identifiers are recorded. A suggested use of Version 3 Form is to conduct a convenient or probability sampling of individuals who are participating in the medicines take-back program. Another suggestion is to provide this form in advance of the collection event and encourage participants to complete and return the form with the unwanted medicines. An electronic version and online version of this form will be available pending funding.

### **Version 3: GROUP Individual Return Form for Research**

This version is reserved for anyone who is conducting a research study on unused and expired medicines. Personal identifiers are included in the required data fields for quality control and reliability testing. A similar questionnaire of Version 3 to collect data about the individuals returning their medicines and their knowledge of the issues concerning unused and expired medicines also is included in this version. All information will be protected for confidentiality and will be treated under the strict protocols of scientific conduct of research, including informed consent. An electronic version and online version of this form will be available pending funding.