



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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13th Annual Medication Disposal Event set for Sept. 14 at Michigan's Capitol

Pharmacy professionals work to combat rising rates of opioid abuse and overdose deaths through proper disposal of unused medications

Lansing, Mich.— The Michigan Pharmacists Association (MPA) will host the 13th annual Medication Disposal Event on the south lawn of the Michigan Capitol Thursday, Sept. 14, 2023. The general public is encouraged to drop off their unused, unwanted or expired medications from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the medication disposal tent. Curbside drop-off will also be available on South Capitol Avenue between Michigan Avenue and Allegan Street.

Held in conjunction with the MPA's annual Pharmacy Day at the Capitol, this event allows participants to safely and responsibly dispose of medications, including controlled substances and narcotics. Those attending the event will have the opportunity to learn more about what the state and MPA are doing to curb the opioid epidemic, as well as witness the valuable role of pharmacy professionals in reducing its impact.

"Events like this are more important now than ever," MPA Director of Government Affairs Eric Roath said. "Drug takeback events help prevent misuse and abuse of medications, especially opioids and other controlled substances. Each year, more than 100,000 people die of opioid overdoses in the United States. Pharmacies and pharmacy professionals want to step up and do our part to address this serious public health concern.

"Proper disposal of medications is also critical for the protection of the environment, particularly our water systems. We are hoping that this year's event can provide a safe and convenient way to properly dispose of expired, unused or unwanted prescription drugs."

Since MPA began the medication disposal event 13 years ago, more than four tons of pharmaceuticals have been collected and properly disposed of. For more information, please visit MichiganPharmacists.org/for-patients/medication-disposal.

About Pharmacy Day at the Capitol

Pharmacy Day at the Capitol provides an opportunity for pharmacists and student pharmacists to educate legislators on their value as health care professionals. Volunteers are given unique one-on-one time with Michigan's elected officials to provide wellness demonstrations, including blood pressure monitoring, blood glucose monitoring, immunizations, emergency preparedness and healthy lifestyle practices. In addition, participants have a chance to discuss key pharmacy issues with lawmakers.

About MPA

The Michigan Pharmacists Association, representing the nearly 9,000 pharmacists and 15,000 pharmacy technicians in Michigan, strives to serve members by providing support, advocacy and resources that ultimately improve patient care, safety, health and the practice of pharmacy. For more information, visit MichiganPharmacists.org.