



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

David E. Brown, D.C.  
Director

## *Department of Health Professions*


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### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** The Honorable Mark D. Sickles  
Chair, House Health, Welfare, and Institutions  
Pocahontas Building, Room W1312  
900 East Main Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

The Honorable L. Louise Lucas  
Chair, Senate Education and Health  
Pocahontas Building, Room E604  
900 East Main Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

**FROM:** Caroline D. Juran, RPh   
Executive Director, Virginia Board of Pharmacy  
Department of Health Professions

**DATE:** October 28, 2020

**RE:** **Report on Drug Disposal**

This report is provided to you pursuant to Chapter 614 of the 2020 Acts of the Assembly. Please feel free to contact me at (804) 367-4578 or [caroline.juran@dhp.virginia.gov](mailto:caroline.juran@dhp.virginia.gov) should you have any questions.

# **Report on Drug Disposal**

**Virginia Department of Health Professions**

**Pursuant to Chapter 614 ([HB 1531](#))**

**October, 2020**

**Drug Disposal**  
**Virginia Board of Pharmacy**  
**Pursuant to Chapter 614 ([HB 1531](#))**

Chapter 614 of the 2020 Acts of the Assembly specifies:

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:*

*1. § 1. That the Board of Pharmacy shall determine methods to enhance public awareness of proper drug disposal methods, which may include requirements for pharmacies or hospitals or clinics with an on-site pharmacy to provide such information to customers and the public through the provision of informative pamphlets, the posting of signs in public areas of the pharmacy, and the posting of information on public-facing websites. The Board of Pharmacy shall also assemble a group of stakeholders to develop strategies to increase the number of permissible drug disposal sites and options for the legal disposal of drugs, including pharmacies and hospitals and clinics with an on-site pharmacy that are authorized collectors and other sites legally permitted for drug disposal, and the legal return of unused drugs by mail. Such stakeholders shall include the Virginia Pharmacists Association, the Virginia Association of Free Clinics, the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association, the Virginia Society of Health System Pharmacists, the Virginia Association of Drug Stores, and any other relevant stakeholders. Strategies developed by the Board of Pharmacy and stakeholders shall take into account the geographic proximity and availability of drug disposal sites in localities across the Commonwealth and existing resources. The Board shall report its findings and recommendations to the Chairmen of the House Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions and the Senate Committee on Education and Health no later than November 15, 2020.*

In accordance with the legislative provision, the Board of Pharmacy reports the following information:

**ASSEMBLY OF STAKEHOLDERS:**

Due to the COVID-19 declared state of emergency and consistent with Amendment 28 to HB29 (Budget Bill for 2018-2020) and the applicable provisions of § 2.2-3708.2 in the Freedom of Information Act, the Board of Pharmacy convened a virtual meeting of stakeholders on July 21, 2020.

The meeting of stakeholders was comprised of the following individuals:

Cheryl Nelson, *Workgroup Chairman*  
William Lee, *Board Member*  
Glenn Bolyard, *Board Member*  
Christina Barrille, *Executive Director, Virginia Pharmacists Association*  
Nicole Lawter, *representing Virginia Association of Free and Charitable Clinics*  
Natalie Nguyen, *representing Virginia Society of Health-System Pharmacists*  
Jodi Roth, *representing Virginia Association of Chain Drug Stores*

Justin Wood, *Diversion Program Manager, Washington Field Division, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)*

Jennifer Wicker, *representing Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association*

The following individuals staffed the meeting:

Caroline Juran, RPh, *Executive Director, Board of Pharmacy*

Elaine Yeatts, *Senior Policy Analyst, DHP*

Sammy Johnson, *Pharmacist, Deputy Executive Director, Board of Pharmacy*

Beth O'Halloran, *Deputy Executive Director, Board of Pharmacy*

Ellen Shinaberry, PharmD, *Deputy Executive Director, Board of Pharmacy*

Kiara Christian, *Executive Assistant, Board of Pharmacy*

## **FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The stakeholders reviewed past actions taken to address proper drug disposal which includes: the adoption of Board of Pharmacy regulation 18VAC110-20-211 which authorizes any narcotic treatment program, hospital or clinic with an on-site pharmacy, or pharmacy to participate as an authorized collector of previously dispensed drugs for the purpose of destruction in compliance with federal requirements; adoption of Guidance Document 110-47, pursuant to HB 2046 passed in 2017, containing guidelines for the provision of counseling and information regarding proper drug disposal of unused dispensed drugs; the 2019 Report of the Joint Commission on Health Care, Report Document No. 272, *Pharmacy Drug Disposal Program*; the 2019 Board of Pharmacy *Report on Effort to Promote Drug Disposal Pursuant to the 2019 Appropriations Act*, and educational information posted on the websites of the Board of Pharmacy, other State and federal agencies, or national organizations.

The stakeholders offered the following recommendations which were subsequently adopted by the Board of Pharmacy on September 9, 2020:

- Post additional links on the Board of Pharmacy website to lists of authorized collectors as compiled by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy which may include law enforcement agencies;
- Relocate drug disposal information on Board of Pharmacy website to a more prominent location;
- Emphasize to pharmacists and other providers the importance of informing patients, at the point of receiving new prescriptions, of proper drug disposal;
- Recommend to the DEA that it consider requesting the U.S. Congress expand allowances for prescribers to participate as an authorized drug collector to receive unused medications from patients for destruction purposes;
- Recommend standardization of drug disposal information published by State agencies to improve communication to consumers; and
- Recommend information on proper drug disposal be available to consumers in different languages.