

# DISPOSAL OF UNUSED MEDICINES AND USER RECOMMENDATIONS

G4 Indicators : G4-EN27

GRI Standards :

301-3 : Materials

## I. BACKGROUND

Sanofi is committed to encouraging the proper disposal of unused medicines. Actions to reduce improper disposal of expired or unused prescription and non-prescription medicines contribute to the protection of our waterways. Although studies have indicated that only a small proportion of medicines enters the environment through waste disposal, it is important to reduce our impact from all sources.

Simple steps, taken by the consumer, will significantly reduce emissions contributing to environmental pollution. For certain types of medicines, for example anti-cancer drugs, special disposal methods are indicated. The following general guidance provides instructions for the proper disposal of all medicines and applies to unused household medicines.

## II. ACTIONS

### 1. Recommendations for users: How to properly dispose of your medicines?

Most importantly, do not dispose of unused medicines down the drain. That is, medicines should be neither flushed down the toilet nor poured down the drain.

Follow local disposal practices and use community pharmaceutical take-back programs where available. Disposal practices vary depending on the area.

In most European nations, unused medicines can be returned to the pharmacy for safe collection and disposal by incineration. In the United States and in many other countries, local take-back programs are probably in place through pharmacies or government or community waste treatment programs. Contact your pharmacy or local waste disposal agencies for more information if needed.

If no local take-back programs are available in your area, you can dispose of unused medicines in the household trash, taking measures to avoid accidental misuse or possible diversion for drug abuse. Render unused medicines undesirable and unrecognizable (e.g., mix them with household waste in unreadable packaging). Scratch out or remove any labeling identifying personal prescription information.

Do not forget a simple waste-reduction measure: whenever possible, try to obtain only the quantity of medicine you need. This will minimize the disposal of expired unused medicines later on.

To learn more about the disposal of medicines in European countries, see the map on the following website: <http://medsdisposal.eu/>

### 2. Supporting medicines take-back schemes worldwide

Take-back programs prevent unused medicines from entering the environment.

We support take-back programs to collect unused medicines from patients and to inform consumers about their safe disposal. For several years, Sanofi has supported the development, implementation and funding of programs to collect unused medicines in Belgium, Colombia, France, Greece, Japan, Mexico, Portugal, Spain, and North America. Programs may differ depending on countries. Some examples are presented below.

## In France, the Cyclamed and Dastri programs

French patients are accustomed to returning unused medicines to their local pharmacies, which are required by law to collect unused and expired drugs. To safeguard the environment and protect consumer health, the Cyclamed program works with dispensing pharmacies, wholesalers, dispatchers and drug companies to oversee the safe elimination of unused tablets, capsules, syrups, ointments and other pharmaceutical dosage forms. The Cyclamed program only collects take-back products from households, which are put through a controlled disposal process through incineration with energy recovery. The nonprofit organization is financed entirely by drug manufacturers. As the largest pharmaceutical company in France, Sanofi makes the biggest financial contribution to the program — more than €1.826 million in 2016. Cyclamed collected a total of 11 884 tons of unused medicines in 2016. More online: [www.cyclamed.org](http://www.cyclamed.org)

Sanofi also makes a substantial contribution to the Dastri program in France for the collection and safe disposal of “sharps” (needles, lancets, infusion sets, etc.) after use by individuals, primarily people with diabetes.

This program called DASTRI was founded in late 2012 to help ensure the safe disposal of “sharps.” Sanofi has been a driving force in this organization alongside 40 other members.

Dastri aims at collecting an estimated 1,200 tons of “sharps.” We have been setting up almost 12,000 collection sites for 2 million of patients. Sanofi’s contribution to the Dastri program amounted to €1.253 million in 2016.



## In Spain

Sigre is a nonprofit organization funded by the pharmaceutical industry. This program collects unused medicines from customers at pharmacies and then sorts materials into non-hazardous drugs, which are sent to waste-to-energy facilities, and packaging, which is sent to recycling facilities. All the products and components that cannot be recycled are treated as fuel for the industrial sector in the energy recovery process.

In 2014, there were more than 21,200 participating pharmacies, with the Sigre logo on pharmaceutical packaging informing consumers to return products to the pharmacy. The producers promote prevention measures aimed at reducing the amount of waste generated in the first place.

Since 2000, when business plans of prevention (PEP) were first implemented, Sigre member companies have applied a total of 1,207 measures affecting a total of 339 million packaging items. A total of 70% of households utilize the program by depositing packaging and leftover medicines in the Punto Sigre bins at pharmacies.

Around 11% of products on the market are recycled. Sigre recycles 88.56 grams per resident and recycles 64.34% of all collected packaging.

This non-profit organization is financed entirely by the pharma industry based on the number of boxes that they market in Spain.

In 2015, Sanofi’s contribution amounted to €224,416 corresponding to 42 million units of Sanofi’s marketed products.

## In Colombia



The Punto Azul (Blue Point) program has set up collection points for unused medicines & packaging across 29 Colombian states, covering 100% of the national territory. This program, which is funded by manufacturers and importers of medicines, was created by the National Association of Colombian Enterprises (ANDI) in 2010 with 26 founding members, including Sanofi

In 2017, 1710 containers have been installed in pharmacies and large supermarkets. Approximately 140 tons of medicines or packaging has been collected in 2017. The collected unused and expired medicines are incinerated by licensed operators.

## In Japan

Regulations to prevent the release of pharmaceuticals into the environment in Japan are still in the preparatory phase and take-back schemes are voluntary. Our affiliate took the lead by introducing the country's first program for unused and expired medicines in 2014, targeting members of the Sanofi Health Insurance Society (SHIS). Employee households now return unused medicines by mail to our partner, Shiraishi Yakuhin K.K., which oversees their safe disposal. In its first year, the program reported a 60% participation rate among employees. In 2015, the affiliate organized initiatives to build awareness. Leaflets on pharmaceuticals in the environment were sent to all SHIS members and information sessions led by an outside facilitator were held at the Sanofi headquarters.

## In Mexico

Sanofi is member of Singrem, a national waste management system for packaging and drugs, funded by the pharmaceutical industry. Containers were installed in two of our production centers and corporate offices to take back expired and unused medicines.

## In Canada

Sanofi contributes to the HPSA (Health Products Stewardship Association) which is a non-profit association governed by a representative board of directors. HPSA's mandate is to perform, on behalf of each steward, certain duties required under provincial regulations. The purpose is to provide information and, in four provinces, to manage the collection of unused or expired medications from the public before they are disposed of in household trash or poured down sewers and drains. Drugs covered under these stewardship programs include: all prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications in oral dosage form (including pills/liquids), and natural health products in oral dosage form (including pills/liquids). HPSA also coordinates the collection of sharps (waste including needles, syringes, injector pens, lancets, etc.) in two provinces.

In other provinces, take back is managed under local or provincial law or by voluntary programs. These are managed and funded by pharmacies, manufacturers and their trade associations or by government agencies. For example, Nova Scotia's Medication Disposal Program allows patients to return medications they no longer need or "dead drugs" to their local community pharmacies for safe disposal. The Medication Disposal Program is administrated by the Pharmacy Association of Nova Scotia (PANS) and paid for by pharmaceutical companies.

Most take-back programs in Canada manage collection at the pharmacy, and at no cost to the consumer.