

**SUSTAINABLE PHARMACEUTICAL WASTE
MANAGEMENT- EMPOWERING COMMUNITY
PHARMACIST & PATIENTS**

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The Project- Background

An EU Funded project by Wasteserve, Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change,

in collaboration with

Kamra tal-Ispizjara ta' Malta, GRTU Pharmacy Section and POYC Unit , Ministry for Health and Malta Medicines Authority.

The Project- Background

The safe disposal of unwanted, expired medicines for domestic use was high on the agenda of the Kamra tal-Ispizjara ta' Malta in the context of it representing and guiding an environmentally conscious profession.

The Project- Background

To this end it endorsed, supported and guided pharmacists' community action, and corporate social responsibility towards the environment through the safe disposal of medicine.

The project, as crafted, incurred no cost either to patient or host pharmacy.

The Project- Background

It centred around the timely and regular collection of domestic and pharmacy generated pharmaceutical waste

It was supported by an educational campaign directed at the public

The Project- Background

Pharmacists have a unique opportunity to educate the public and themselves on the importance of proper medication disposal as well as the programs available which are accessible to Patients and their carers (Athern et al., 2016).

The Project- Background

Kusturica Paut et al. (2017)² published current data emphasizing the global issue of improper medicine disposal, prevalent in environmentally-aware people.

The most common method for disposal of unused medications in households is disposal in the garbage e.g. in Kuwait, United Kingdom, Lithuania, Qatar, Serbia, Ghana, Bangladesh, Malta and Saudi Arabia.

The Project- Background

The practice of flushing drugs into the sewage system still takes place in New Zealand, USA and Bangladesh.

Only in Sweden and Germany, practice of returning drugs to pharmacy was practiced to a larger extent.

The environmental impact of improper medication disposal is expected in countries with poorly functioning waste management schemes (Middle Eastern, Asian and African countries).

The Project- Background

Lack of the adequate information and clear instructions on proper manners of drug disposal was reported in many surveyed countries. (USA, New Zealand, Bangladesh, Malta & Ireland)

Many respondents were generally concerned with issues of inadequate medicines discarding but the behaviour regarding disposal of unused drugs often did not equate the awareness (Serbia, USA, Kuwait, Malta, UK)

The Project- Background

In the UK, the PSNC, the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee³ - embraced a similar project in 2004 with subsequent amendments to the environmental legislation and policy.

Other models exist in Europe, and internationally.

The Project- Background

The Kamra tal-Ispizjara ta' Malta has vociferously endorsed and exhorted the participation by Community Pharmacists in this EU funded project, urging and supporting pharmacies to adhere to the pilot project and subsequent roll-out.

The Project- Background

- Acceptance of these bins at the pharmacies
- Assist consumers accordingly
- Cooperate with Wasteserv to operate this system



Pharmacies are at indicate their participation in the project by
1st September 2019

The Project- Background

The Kamra continues to support this endeavour through constant monitoring of the process and outcomes and shall request adjustments as the need arises during the pilot based on participants' feedback in the best interest of patients, pharmacies and society at large.

The Project- Background

In September 2019 specially designated bins for expired medicines were distributed by Wasteserv in pharmacies throughout Malta & Gozo

Participation was voluntary, but we can report 100% uptake

The Project- Background

PHARMACY WASTE COLLECTION REQUEST

Section A: Pharmacy Details

Pharmacy Name:

Person Requesting the collection:

Contact Number:


Email Address:

Section B: Waste Details

Indicative Amount of Normal Medicine Bags:

Indicative Amount of Cytotoxic and Cytostatic Buckets:

For security purposes please use the recatcha form below.

I'm not a robot 

SUBMIT

The Project- Background

A PR campaign was launched between September and October 2019. This was aimed for both community pharmacists and the general public:

TV

Radio

Social Media

Informative Poster (Including Stickers on Bins)

Customer Care Team

The Project- Background



The Project- What is collected



The Project- Special provisos for cytotoxics



The Project- Not yet extended to Sharps



The Project- Background

REGULAR COLLECTIONS:

- Monday to Friday



The Project- Background

REGULAR COLLECTIONS:

Freephone Number 8007 2200

The Project- Background

This project is important on many levels-

It fosters awareness that pharmaceutical waste poses a very specific threat to the integrity of our environment

It harnesses the knowhow and expertise of community pharmacists as an important pillar in its execution

The Project- Background

Most importantly it has recruited patients as equal partners in its execution.

It encourages them to check their medication for expiries

It creates awareness of the importance of correct waste disposal

It cements the importance of community pharmacies as freely accessible health care centres

References

References

1. Athern KM, et al. Consult Pharm. 2016
2. Kusturica Paut. M. et al. Rev Environ Contam Toxicol. 2017
3. <https://psnc.org.uk/services-commissioning/essential-services/disposal-of-unwanted-medicines/> accessed