

# Safe Medicine Disposal for ME:

Funded by the U.S. EPA Aging Initiative

## **Program goals:**

- Remove unneeded prescription drugs from circulation by providing an environmentally safe way to dispose of medications.

## **Environmental impact of pharmaceuticals:**

- Studies are revealing negative environmental impacts on water quality and aquatic life from flushed medications.

## **Facts about Teens and Rx Abuse:**

- Many teens believe that prescription drugs are safer than alcohol or illicit drugs, and that abusing them isn't risky.
- "Pharm Parties" are where teens dump bottles of prescription medications into a punch bowl and ingest random medications to get "high".

## **Medication Safety:**

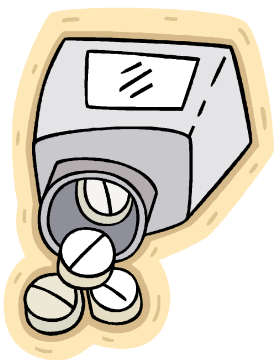
- Some poisonings reported to poison control centers come from the accidental ingestion of medications that have been left unsupervised and within the reach of children.
- Home burglaries related to prescription drugs are on the rise.

## **Remember to:**

- Review the contents of your medication cabinet regularly.
- Check the expiration dates on your prescription and nonprescription medications.
- Store medications safely, out of the reach of children and in a locked cabinet if possible.

## **How you can safely dispose of medications:**

- Utilize the Safe Medicine Disposal for ME program. Call the program helpline at **1-866-637-9743** for more information. Or email: [info@safemeddisposal.com](mailto:info@safemeddisposal.com).
- Contact your local law enforcement office to see if they sponsor a medication take-back event or drug drop-off day in your community.
- Contact the Northern New England Poison Control Center at **1-800-222-1222** for other safe disposal options and to add medication take-back event dates to their informational calendar.



## **Information gathered with thanks from:**

National Council for Patient Information and Education  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Northern New England Poison Control Center  
Maine Department of Environmental Protection  
Maine Office of Substance Abuse Services  
Maine Benzodiazepine Study Group  
Project AWARE