

California Fact Sheet



Pharmaceutical EPR Program: San Francisco County

Rev. 8/16/18

In 2010 a Safe Drug Disposal Ordinance was introduced, but was put on hold after the pharmaceutical industry provided grant funding for the San Francisco Department of the Environment to develop and operate a medicine collection pilot program. The pilot program collected over 88,000 pounds of medicine from 2012 to 2017. In 2014, then San Francisco Board President David Chiu introduced the Safe Drug Disposal Stewardship Ordinance following the promulgation of the DEA Final Rule on Disposal of Controlled Substances. **The Safe Drug Disposal Stewardship Ordinance was signed into law on March 25, 2015.**¹ In July 2016, the **MED-Project Stewardship plan** was approved, but has since been **revised** and is currently in effect.¹

Organizing Body: The Ordinance requires pharmaceutical manufacturers selling their products in San Francisco to provide residents with a **safe and convenient way** to dispose of unwanted and expired medicines.² As of June 8, 2018, MED-Project operates the San Francisco stewardship program on behalf of **474 pharmaceutical Producers**.³



Costs & Funding: Through the **Ordinance**, pharmaceutical producers are required, either individually, jointly with other producers, or through a stewardship organization, to **fund and operate an approved program** that provides a safe medicine collection system for San Francisco residents.²

A full list of member companies in the approved stewardship plan can be found in "[A Product Stewardship Plan](#)".⁵

Program Facts: MED-Project anticipates collecting approximately **19,800 pounds of unwanted medicine** from kiosk drop-off Sites in 2019.⁵

Collection Locations & Accessibility:

As of August 10, 2018, **45 MED-Project medicine collection kiosks** are open and operating in the county.³

Five drop-off locations in each of San Francisco's eleven supervisorial districts (55 total) are required by the ordinance. If the goal is not met, **one-day take-back events and/or mail-back envelope** distribution locations must be established.³

Mail-back envelopes are required to be available to disabled and home-bound residents upon request.² There are multiple mail-back packaging options including ones for **meds, autoinjectors, and inhalers.**⁵

Regulations approved in July of 2016 specify outreach methods, metrics and reporting, including a requirement for additional outreach if less than **50% of San Francisco residents** are aware of the stewardship medicine collection program, as measured in a biennial survey required of the Stewardship Plan Operators.³

Timeline:

1990-2005: Through a partnership with Recology, San Francisco residents were able to take their expired and unwanted meds to their local household hazardous waste facilities.⁴

2010: San Francisco introduced a **Safe Drug Disposal Ordinance**.

2012: The city accepted \$110,000 in grant funds from the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturing Association (PhRMA) and Genentech to fund a **pilot program to demonstrate that residents would utilize pharmacy collection.**

August 2013 & 2014: PhRMA and Genentech provided additional funding of \$125,000 to continue operation of the pilot program.

May 2011: A separate **Safe Drug Disposal Information Ordinance** was passed to supplement the Industry-funded pilot program by requiring pharmacies that don't host a collection kiosk to advertise those that do.⁶

October 21, 2014: San Francisco Board President David Chiu introduced the 2015 **Safe Drug Disposal Stewardship Ordinance**.

March 10, 2015: Ordinance received an **11 – 0 vote** to adopt.⁷

March 26, 2015: San Francisco Mayor Edwin Lee signed the legislation and the ordinance's date of enactment is 30 days after signing.

July 25, 2016: San Francisco **MED-Project Stewardship Plan, July 14, 2016 revision** approved.¹

July 25, 2016: **Regulations** implementing the Ordinance go into effect.¹

December 16, 2016: **Collection Model Modification** submitted October 19, 2016 approved.¹

July 3, 2018: San Francisco **MED-Project Revised Stewardship Plan, May 31, 2018 revision** approved.¹

References:

1. "Safe Drug Disposal Stewardship Ordinance" *sfenvironment* accessed July 2018 [Web](#).
2. "Safe Drug Disposal Ordinance" *calpsc* accessed July 2018 [Web](#).
3. "Biennial Report to Board of Supervisors" *sfenvironment* accessed July 2018 [Web](#).
4. "San Francisco's Safe Medicine Disposal Pilot" *calpsc* accessed July 2018 [Web](#).
5. "A Product Stewardship Plan For Unwanted Medicines from Households" *sfenvironment* accessed July 2018 [Web](#).
6. "Safe Drug Disposal Information Ordinance" *calpsc* accessed July 2018 [Web](#).
7. "San Francisco Board of Supervisors Meeting" *sanfrancisco.granicus* accessed July 2018 [Web](#).