



WHAT YOU CAN DO



PROPERLY DISPOSE OF MEDICATIONS

Disposing of unused, unwanted medications leads to the reduction of misuse and availability of prescription drugs for people who are addicted to opiates. **THE SUMMIT COUNTY OPIATE TASK FORCE** encourages residents to clean out medicine cabinets regularly so prescriptions don't fall into the wrong hands.

Several solutions are offered to help you dispose of medicines after they are no longer needed:

D.U.M.P. (Dispose of Unused Medications Properly)

BOXES are a safe, effective way to dispose of medications in the form of pills, capsules or liquids. Simply take the unwanted medicine to one of the several D.U.M.P. box locations throughout the county, and the medication will be safely destroyed, no questions asked. Locations are listed at www.scphoh.org/environmental/env-dump.html.

The Drug Enforcement Agency sponsors **NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY** twice per year. These events provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs. In 2016, Summit County residents turned in 3,037 lbs. of medication. Visit www.dea.gov for information and scheduled Drug Take-Back Days for 2017.

THE SUMMIT COUNTY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP received a donation of 40,000 drug deactivation pouches from Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals that are available for Summit County residents to safely and easily dispose of prescription medications that have the potential for abuse. The pouch deactivates prescription drugs and renders remaining contents safe for landfills. After filling the specially formulated pouch with pills, add tap water, then it can be sealed and thrown away with household trash. Acme Fresh Market Pharmacies are providing a pouch with each opiate prescription (Vicodin, Percocet, etc.) or by request at 16 of their locations.

When a loved one passes, many don't know what to do with medications. Taking the time to use one of the disposal methods listed above can prevent someone else from taking those medicines.



ALTERNATIVES FOR PAIN

Discuss alternate ways to manage your pain that don't involve prescription opioids with your doctor or ask about over-the-counter (OTC) or non-narcotic options. Some of these options may actually work better and have fewer risks and side effects.



SCHEDULE A SPEAKER

THE SUMMIT COUNTY OPIATE TASK FORCE provides trained speakers for groups interested in learning more about the opiate epidemic. Speakers are able to provide the latest data and will tailor the content to the group or community they are addressing. If you are interested in scheduling a speaker for your business, church or civic group, visit www.summitcountryopiatetaskforce.org/contact to submit a request.



TALK TO YOUR KIDS

It is important to talk to your kids about prescription safety and to safeguard your medicines. Modelling safe medication practices sets an example for them, and discussing the risks of all types of drugs, including prescriptions, means your kids will be well-informed.

START TALKING! Gives adults tools to start the conversation with Ohio's youth about the importance of living healthy, drug-free lives. For more information, visit www.starttalking.ohio.gov.

THE PARTNERSHIP FOR DRUG-FREE KIDS is a national initiative whose main objective is to provide information and guidance to families so that they can communicate more effectively with teens about drug use. Their Helpline—1-855-DRUGFREE (1-855-378-4373)—provides peer-to-peer support and guidance to families dealing with substance abuse issues. For more information, visit www.drugfree.org.



EDUCATE AND ENCOURAGE OTHERS

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