

## **California's new statewide Pharmaceutical and Sharps Program**

Prescription drugs and home-use needles, syringes and lancets save lives.

But too often, improper storage and disposal of these sharps and pharmaceuticals cause overdose deaths.

"Thousands of Californians die from overdoses each year."

Accidental poisonings.

"Children and teenagers get into medicine cabinets where people often stockpile old prescriptions"

Needle stick injuries.

"Sanitation workers get stuck with needles and can be exposed to infectious diseases"

And contaminated water.

"Wastewater treatment plants are not equipped to process medication that are flushed down the toilet."

To save lives and safeguard our precious water - California made manufacturers responsible for safely managing their products once Californians are done using them.

"The 2018 law requires industry (producers, manufacturers) to form stewardship organizations to establish, fund, and operate convenient takeback programs at no costs to consumers."

With programs in place, Californians will start seeing more collection bins like these at their local pharmacies, hospitals and other secure public spaces.

These bins, along with prepaid mailback options for unused drugs and home-generated sharps give consumers safe and convenient options to properly discard their medical waste.

"The law requires the pharm and sharps industry to operate and fund safe collection and disposal programs for various products."

Strict state oversight ensures industry programs, budgets and outreach meet California's new standards.

"California was the first state in the nation to pass a stewardship law for both pharmaceuticals and home-generated sharps waste."

A statewide solution complementing a patchwork of local programs to:

- Protect our children.
- Safeguard our workers.
- And keep our water safe to drink.

By giving consumers safe, free, and convenient ways to discard sharps and pharmaceuticals.