

Organizing Body: British Columbia Medications Return Program (BCMRP) is administered by Health Products Stewardship Association (HPSA), a non-profit association funded and governed by the health product industries.¹
<http://www.healthsteward.ca/returns/british-columbia>

Program Description: The British Columbia (B.C.) Medications Returns Program was first established in 1996 with the B.C. Waste Management Act ([B.C. Reg. 111/97](#)²). In 2004, the B.C. Recycling Regulation ([B.C. Reg. 449/2004](#)³) replaced the old legislation.⁴ Currently, all brand-owners (both prescription and non-prescription) are responsible for funding the entirety of the B.C. Medications Return Program.⁵ The HPSA operates the collection system and ensures producers are held accountable for their responsibilities.⁶ The program collects prescription drugs, non-prescription medications and natural health products.⁷

Funding: The pharmaceutical industry is responsible for funding the entire cost of the program; this includes costs for management, communications, collection, transportation, storage, and promotional activities.⁶

- For prescription medications, producer fees are calculated by combining the previous year's market share and collected data IMS Compuscript Eutrx Data.⁸
- For Over The Counter (OTC) medications and Natural Health Products (NHP), producer fees are calculated by a ratio of retail sales from the previous year.⁸

¹ Health Products Stewardship Association, accessed February 2015, [Web](#).

² "Post-Consumer Residual Stewardship Program Regulation." *Ministry of the Environment*, accessed January 2015, [Web](#).

³ "Environmental Management Act: Recycling Regulation." *Ministry of the Environment*, last modified 7 October 2004, accessed January 2015, [Web](#).

⁴ "Product Stewardship Financing Models: A Look at the Post-Consumer Stewardship Association." *Product Stewardship Institute: Sustainable Solutions to Protect the Environment*, accessed January 2015, [Web](#).

⁵ "Producer Provided Medications Return Program in British Columbia." *Post-Consumer Product Stewardship Association*, accessed January 2015, [Web](#).

⁶ "Product Stewardship Financing Models"

⁷ "Producer Provided Medications Return Program"

⁸ "Industry Stewards Summary." *Health Products Stewards Association*, accessed January 2015, [Web](#).

International Pharmaceutical EPR Program Fact Sheet

Program Costs:

- 2009: \$350,827 USD⁹
- 2011: \$516,800 USD⁹, ~\$3.40 per lb and/or ~\$500 per pharmacy/year
- Costs are shared by the by the both prescription and non-prescription health product industries.¹⁰

Program Chronology:

- 1996: B.C. Pharmacy Association (BCPhA) establishes BC EnviRx program.¹¹
- 1997: B.C. Waste Management Act- Post-Consumer Residual Stewardship Program implemented ([B.C. Reg. 111/97](#)¹²), requiring all brand producers to be fully responsible for their products' end-of-life disposal.¹³
- 2000: A nationally registered non-profit, Post-Consumer Pharmaceutical Stewardship Association (PCPSA) replaces BCPhA. PCPSA begins managing the Medications Returns Program.¹³
- 2004: B.C. Recycling Regulation ([B.C. Reg. 449/2004](#)¹⁴) replaces the Post-Consumer Paint Stewardship Program Regulation.

Collection Locations: At community pharmacies around BC. Participation by pharmacies is voluntary.¹⁵ As of 2013, **1,132** pharmacies participated in the program; representing **94.1%** of all pharmacies in B.C.¹⁶

⁹ "Examples of Actual Medicine Take-Back Program Costs." *King County*, last modified 8 Aug. 2012, accessed January 2015, [Web](#), 1.

¹⁰ "Producer Provided Medications Return Program"

¹¹ Driedger, Ron. "Annual Report by the Director: 1998 Reporting Period." *Pollution Prevention and Remediation Branch*, accessed January 2015, [Web](#).

¹² "Post-Consumer Residual Stewardship Program Regulation"

¹³ "Product Stewardship Financing Models"

¹⁴ "Environmental Management Act"

¹⁵ Vanasse, Ginette. "Pharmaceutical Annual Report: January to December 2010." *Medications Return Program*, last modified 30 June 2011, accessed January 2015, [Web](#), 5.

¹⁶ Vanasse, Ginette. "Pharmaceutical Annual Report: January to December 2013." *Medications Return Program*, last modified 30 June 2014, accessed January 2015, [Web](#), 3.

Results:

- Between 2009 and 2013 there was an 81% increase in the amount of medications collected.
- The graph below represents B.C. Pharmaceutical Waste Collection from 2009-13. The data was obtained through the B.C. Medications Returns Program from Annual Reports 2009 to 2013.^{17, 18, 19, 20, 21}



¹⁷ Vanasse, Ginette. "Pharmaceutical Annual Report: January to December 2009." *Medications Return Program*, last modified 30 June 2010, accessed January 2015, [Web](#), 3.

¹⁸ Vanasse, Ginette. "Pharmaceutical Annual Report: January to December 2010." *Medications Return Program*, last modified 30 June 2011, accessed January 2015, [Web](#), 3.

¹⁹ Vanasse, Ginette. "Pharmaceutical Annual Report: January to December 2011." *Medications Return Program*, last modified 30 June 2012, accessed January 2015, [Web](#), 3.

²⁰ Vanasse, Ginette. "Pharmaceutical Annual Report: January to December 2012." *Medications Return Program*, last modified 30 June 2013, accessed January 2015, [Web](#), 2.

²¹ Vanasse, Ginette. "Pharmaceutical Annual Report: January to December 2013." *Medications Return Program*, last modified 30 June 2014, accessed January 2015, [Web](#), 3.



MRP **MEDICATIONS
RETURN
PROGRAM**

YES	NO
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ All prescription drugs✓ OTC Medications (pills/liquids)✓ Natural Health Products in oral dosage form✓ Anti-fungal creams✓ Anti-bacterial creams✓ Inhalers✓ Patches	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Sharps, syringes or needlesShampoosMouthwashAntiperspirantsAntisepticsPharmaceuticals from farms/ hospitalsPharmacy waste produced by the pharmacyExpired samples from doctor's office

Loose pills, blister packs, etc
No free liquids

B.C. Informational Sticker attached to collection containers in pharmacies ([Health Products Stewardship Association Website](#))

Public Brochure for the BCMRP:
<http://www.healthsteward.ca/sites/default/files/BCMRPbrochure.pdf>