

International Pharmaceutical and Sharps EPR Program Fact Sheet

Organizing Body: The Nova Scotia Medication Disposal Program and Safe Sharps Bring-Back Program are administered by the Pharmacy Association of Nova Scotia (PANS).^{1, 2}

<https://pans.ns.ca/medication-disposal/>

<https://pans.ns.ca/safe-sharps/>

Program Description: The Medication Disposal Program allows consumers to return pharmaceuticals to community pharmacies in Nova Scotia, where medications are deposited in cardboard boxes lined with plastic bags.¹ The Safe Sharps Bring-Back Program was created by PANS, the Canadian Diabetes Association (CDA) Nova Scotia division and Department of Environment and Labour and provides household users of syringes, needles, pen needles and lancets containers to deposit these used medical devices. Containers can be obtained from community pharmacies and CDA Supply Centres, and returned to these same locations once full.³

Funding: The destruction and transport of collected medicines through the Medication Disposal Program are paid for by the manufacturers who sell pharmaceuticals in Nova Scotia.¹ The Safe Sharps Bring-Back Program is funded by Nova Scotia's pharmacies, sharps manufacturers and medication distributors.⁴

Program Costs: In 2007, the Medication Disposal Program's average cost per month was \$4,625 USD (\$5,783 CAD)^{1,5}

Program Chronology:

- Mid 1990's: PANS set up the Dead Drug program, now called the Nova Scotia Medication Disposal program, with the assistance of McKesson Canada,¹ a logistics and distribution leader in the Canadian healthcare sector⁶
- 2001: The Safe Sharps Program is developed⁷

¹ Gagnon, Edith. "Pharmaceutical Disposal Programs for the Public: A Canadian Perspective", *Health Canada Environmental Impact Initiative*, last modified 9 November 2009, accessed February 2015, [Web](#), 29-31.

² "Product Stewardship Programs", *Government of Nova Scotia*, accessed February 2015, [Web](#).

³ "Safe Sharps Disposal Protects Workers", *Nova Scotia Department of Labour*, last modified 6 March 2001, accessed February 2015, [Web](#).

⁴ "Safe Sharps", *Pharmacy Association of Nova Scotia*, accessed February 2015, [Web](#).

⁵ *XE Currency Converter*, accessed 19 February 2015, [Web](#).

⁶ "President's Message", *McKesson Canada*, accessed February 2015, [Web](#).

⁷ "Provincial Programs", *Community Recycling Centre*, accessed February 2015, [Web](#).

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Collection Locations: Community pharmacies voluntarily participate and according to PANS, there is 100% participation in the Medication Disposal Program.⁸ All pharmacies and CDA Supply Centres participate in the province's Safe Sharps Program.⁹

Results:

Medication Disposal Program:

- February 2007: ~4,833 lbs (2,192 kg) collected
- 2006 Monthly Average: ~4,713 lbs (2,138 kg) collected
- 2005 Monthly Average: ~4,004 lbs (1,816 kg) collected¹⁰

1

Pick up a free Safe Sharps container at your community pharmacy.



For Chronic Use



For Short Term Use

2

Place your used sharps into the Safe Sharps container.



3

When the container is full, return the sealed container to your community pharmacy.

(Sharps Program Instructions, [Safe Sharps Bring-Back Program 2012 Brochure](#))

⁸ "Pharmaceutical Disposal Programs for the Public: A Canadian Perspective", 29-31.

⁹ "Provincial Programs",

¹⁰ Gagnon, 29.