

Organizing Body: The Ontario Medications Return Program (OMRP) and the Ontario Sharps Collection Program (OSCP) are administered by the Health Products Stewardship Association (HPSA), a non-profit organization funded and governed by the health product industries.¹
<http://www.healthsteward.ca/returns/ontario>

Program Description: The OMRP and OSCP began in 2012, legislated under the [Ontario Regulation 298/12 “Collection of Pharmaceuticals and Sharps - Responsibilities of Producers”](#) of the Ontario Environmental Protection Act (EPA). The regulation explicitly defines producers of pharmaceuticals and sharps and holds them directly accountable for the end-life management of their products.² The OMRP and OSCP operates collections for all types of prescription drugs and solid oral dosage of over-the-counter medications, natural health products, and sharps sold for use in Ontario, but are limited to the “consumer” waste stream.³ Although pharmacies are not required to participate, over 90% voluntarily collected medications and sharps free of charge under the OMRP and OSCP in the first year of operation.² The current plans for both sharps and medications cover a period of three years, through December 31, 2015.³

Funding: Funded entirely by **brand owners**.
Regulation 298/12 defines “producers” as:

- (a) *“the manufacturer of the pharmaceutical or sharp, if it is sold to consumers in Ontario under a brand that the manufacturer owns, licenses or otherwise has rights to;*
- (b) *if there is no person described in clause (a), the owner or licensee of the brand or the person who otherwise has rights to the brand under which the pharmaceutical or sharp is sold to consumers in Ontario;*
- (c) *if there is no person described in clause (a) or (b), the importer of the pharmaceutical or sharp into Ontario; or*
- (d) *if there is no person described in clause (a), (b), or (c), the first person who sells the pharmaceutical or sharp to another person in Ontario.”²*

“For the purpose of this Plan, a producer will be deemed to be the brand-owner”²

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

² Vanasse, Ginette. “Annual Report on the Ontario Medications Return Program and the Ontario Sharps Collection Program for the period of January 1, 2013 - December 31, 2013.” Health Products Stewardship Association, last modified 31 March 2014, accessed January 2015, [Web](#), 4, 5, 7, 8, 16.

³ “Program Plan for the Ontario Medications Return Program.” Health Products Stewardship Association, last modified 2013 April, accessed January 2015, [Web](#), 2, 8.

International Pharmaceutical and Sharps EPR Program Fact Sheet

Program Costs: No cost data found

Program Chronology:

- 1999: The Post Consumer Pharmaceutical Stewardship Association (now called the Health Products Stewardship Association) was created⁴
- October 2012: Ontario Regulation 298/12 “Collection of Pharmaceuticals and Sharps - Responsibilities of Producers” under the Ontario EPA came into force⁴ and OMRP and OSCP are in operation⁵
- 2013: First year of full operation⁵
- Producers are required to have 80% of accredited pharmacies or 80% of retail locations act as collection locations by January 1, 2013. The producers exceeded the mandate by having 84% host bins⁵
- Producers are required to have 90% of accredited pharmacies or 90% of retail locations participate as collection locations by January 1, 2014.⁵ The producers exceeded the mandate by having 90.8% host bins⁷
- December 31, 2015: Three year OMRP & OSCP plans will be updated⁴

Collection Locations:

- Pharmacies participate voluntarily⁴
- A registered pharmacist or pharmacy technician must be present when the public drops off medications or sharps at a collection location⁴
- As of March 31, 2013, OSCP has 2,962 collection locations⁶
- As of December 31, 2013, OMRP has 3,347 collection locations⁶

Results:

- **90.8%** of collection locations registered as of December 31, 2013, meeting the 90% participation requirement set for January 1, 2014⁵
- In 2013, its first calendar year of operation, the OMRP collected **365 tons** (331,327 kilograms) of medications and **233 tons** (211,737 kilograms) of used sharps were returned by consumers to participating retail pharmacies⁵
- “Producers of these products, through the HPSA, have made significant gains toward preventing illicit diversion and abuse of medications in households and have helped reduce drug and needle related accidents in the home by providing consumers with easy access to retail pharmacy locations where materials can be returned for proper disposal.” (pg. 4)⁶

⁴ “Program Plan for the Ontario Medications Return Program”, 2, 8, 12.

⁵ Vanasse, Ginette. “Interim Report on the Ontario Medications Return Program and the Ontario Sharps Collection Program for the period of Oct 1, 2012 – March 31, 2013” *Health Products Stewardship Association*, last modified 12 September 2013, accessed February 2015, [Web](#), 6, 13

⁶ Vanasse, 4, 10, 11.



OMRP Window Decal ([HPSA Ontario Annual Report 2013](#))