
California Fact Sheet



Pharmaceutical EPR Ordinance: Alameda County

Rev: 8/22/18

Alameda County Board of Supervisors unanimously passed the Alameda County Safe Drug Disposal Ordinance on July 24, 2012. Producers contested the Ordinance and appealed in the U.S. Supreme Court and lost. This ordinance was the first in the nation to hold pharmaceutical companies responsible for the safe collection and disposal of unused medications from the public.

Organizing Body: A producer, group of producers, or stewardship organization may submit a plan and receive approval from the department. All approved plans must comply with Alameda County Safe Drug Disposal Ordinance, as well as any state or federal regulations. In the event that a producer fails to comply, fines and citations will be issued accordingly. Retailers are not mandated to become a host for collection kiosks. In 2015 two plans were approved by the department, **Exelsis Drug Disposal Program** (Mail-Back) and **Alameda MED-Project LLC Plan**.



Costs & Funding: Drug manufacturers who distribute controlled substances or other covered drugs to Alameda County have the responsibility to fund all costs associated with an approved plan.¹

Program Facts: Every three years an updated product stewardship plan must be submitted to the department for review and approval.²

In 2017, **13,038 pounds** of unwanted medicine was collected by MED-project,³ and **Opioid deaths decreased** by nearly **50 percent** in 2017.⁴

In a separate ordinance the **Alameda County Safe-Consumer-Generated Sharps Disposal Ordinance** was passed on November 15, 2015, which is still in the roll-out process.¹

Collection Locations & Accessibility:

- Alameda MED-Project LLC Plan includes a toll-free customer service number: **(1-800-MED-Proj)**, as well as a map of locations at www.med-project.org.³
- There are a total of **32 active medicine collection** sites throughout Alameda County.
- Over **3,150 pounds** of unwanted medicine were collected by Alameda MED-Project during **12 take-back events in 2017**.⁵
- Exelsis Drug Disposal Plan provides Alameda County strictly with mail back service of unwanted medicine.⁶



Timeline:

October 2010: DEA allows pharmacies to accept controlled medication.⁸

July 2012: Alameda Safe Med project was passed by unanimous vote by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors.

December 2012: Alameda County is sued by three organizations, Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America; Generic Pharmaceutical Association; Biotechnology Industry Organization, representing the pharmaceutical industry.

September 2014: The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals rules in favor of Alameda County.⁷

February 2015: Alameda County Safe Drug Disposal Program Public hearing to review submitted product stewardship plans, **Exelsis Drug Disposal Program** and **Alameda MED-Project LLC Plan**. Both programs have been approved by the Director of the Department of Environmental Health.¹

February 2016: Alameda County Safe Drug Disposal Ordinance was amended, the revised ordinance went into effect March 3, 2016.¹

Bibliography

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3. "Med Project Approved Plan" *acgov*, accessed July 2018 [Web](#).
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5. "AlamedaMED-project 2017 Annual Report" *acgov*, accessed July 2018 [Web](#).
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7. "United States Court of Appeals" *calpsc*, accessed July 2018, [Web](#).
8. "Disposal of Controlled Substances" DEA, accessed July 2018, [Web](#).
9. "Alameda Safe Drug Disposal Ordinance Timeline" *calpsc*, accessed July 2018, [Web](#).