

# Few pharmacies provide correct info on medication disposal

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(HealthDay)—Fewer than half of California pharmacies provide correct

information about disposal of antibiotics and opioids, and few report take-back programs, according to a research letter published online Dec. 31 in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

Rachel E. Selekman, M.D., from the Children's National Hospital in Washington, D.C., and colleagues examined the information California pharmacies provide about proper disposal of unused [antibiotics](#) and opioids. Four male and two female callers administered a survey following a written script to pharmacies, inquiring as a parent with leftover antibiotics and opioids from their child's surgery. A total of 898 pharmacies responded.

The researchers found that 47 percent of the pharmacies provided correct antibiotic and 19 percent provided correct [opioid](#) disposal information; 29 percent provided correct information for both. Correct information for antibiotics was provided on a weekday and weekend call 49 and 15 percent of the time, respectively. Correct information for opioids was provided 20 and 7 percent of the time on a weekday and weekend call, respectively. Eleven percent of the pharmacies reported a program for antibiotic disposal and 11 percent reported a program for opioid disposal when directly queried about a take-back program at their location.

"Improving disposal practices will require a combined effort of strengthening education of patients and those advising patients as well as expanding disposal programs to ensure access," the authors write.

**More information:** [Abstract/Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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