

## Regulations for Controlled Medication Disposal Vary by State (AS APPLICABLE)

*\*Controlled Substances (CS) Disposal is subject to both FEDERAL and STATE regulations\*  
To maximize compliance consider these helpful hints and tips! (AS APPLICABLE)*

**CMS STATE OPERATIONS MANUAL (AS APPLICABLE)**

establishes the overarching federal rule that: "Disposal methods for controlled medications must involve a secure and safe method to prevent diversion and/or accidental exposure"

- **F755** - Facility must have a sufficiently detailed system to account for **controlled medications' receipt and disposition** and enable accurate reconciliation
- **F761** - Label/Store Drugs & Biologicals - Pharmacy policies must address safeguarding, monitoring, administration, documentation, reconciliation and **destruction of controlled substances**

**STATE REGULATIONS (AS APPLICABLE)**

*may vary so staff should familiarize themselves with local mandates!*

- Stipulations on **who can/must participate in the CS disposition process** may include the **facility Administrator, DON, RNs, and/or Consultant Pharmacist** in the process
- A **time limit for destruction** establishes the permissible length of time in which a CS must be destroyed once an order is discontinued
- **Logs and Count Sheets** must be retained for a designated number of years

**MEDICATION CARTS**

housing Controlled Substances (CS) should be **locked** and **secured** when not in use

**DISCONTINUED CS**

should be promptly **removed** from **Medication Carts/Room** and designated for disposal/return

**CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES**

Pending disposal after a discontinued order should be retained in house in a **double-locked area** with **access restricted to authorized personnel**

**DISPOSITION LOGS**

may be employed to help facility administrators track CS

- Must include: resident's name, medication name and strength, rx number, quantity/amount disposed, date of destruction, and signatures of witnesses

**CONTROLLED MEDICATIONS**

refused by a resident or not given after being punched from the card should be documented upon the count sheet on the line, and noted as wasted with at minimum 2 required witness signatures per facility Policies and Procedures

The **Director of Nursing and Consultant Pharmacist** should monitor compliance to the facility's CS disposal Policies and Procedures and ensure staff are able to answer the following questions:

**HOW DO THESE REGULATIONS IMPACT FLOOR NURSING?**

- limit cross outs on count sheet
- no taping of punched medications is allowed
- two nurses must witness Fentanyl patches removal and destruction
- Shift to Shift sheets must be maintained, along with count sheets signed and noted when removed by nurse
- MAR MUST MATCH COUNT SHEET (time given and date)
- NO borrowing of medications is allowed

**WHAT REGULATIONS PERTAIN TO YOUR STATE?**

State Specific regulations for: \_\_\_\_\_ (State)

- Who can destroy Controlled Substances \_\_\_\_\_
- Time limit to destroy CS once discontinued \_\_\_\_\_
- Retain CS disposal records for \_\_\_\_\_ years
- Recommended method for destruction (circle)  
Drug Buster | Rx Destroyer | Coffee Grounds | Kitty Litter
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_