

Narragansett Police Department

40 Caswell Street, Narragansett, RI 02882

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 20, 2014

REVIEW DATE: December 20, 2017

REVISED DATE:

RIPAC REFERENCE:

PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK PROGRAM (500.05)

01 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to announce the implementation of the Drug Take-Back Program within the Narragansett Police Department and to specify procedures and assign responsibilities to ensure the effectiveness of the program.

02 Policy

It is the policy of the Narragansett Police Department to provide the public with a safe, convenient, and responsible means to assist individual citizens to anonymously dispose of a broad range of acceptable unused, unwanted, and/or expired medications and pharmaceutical products.

As stated in the “Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act of 2010”, Congress has found that the non-medical use of controlled prescription drugs (CPDs) poses a growing problem in the U.S., and particularly among teenagers, who abuse prescription drugs more than any illicit drug except marijuana – more than cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine combined.

The number of unintentional overdose deaths and treatment admissions for CPDs has increased significantly in recent years, as have violent crimes and property crimes associated with their abuse and diversion. In the majority of cases, these CPDs are either obtained from home medicine cabinets or retrieved from the trash.

Many State and local law enforcement agencies have established drug disposal programs to facilitate the anonymous collection and destruction of unused, unwanted, and expired prescription and other medications. These programs help to get outdated or unused medications off household shelves and out of the reach of children and teenagers, while also serving to reduce the introduction of potentially harmful substances into the environment.

03 Definitions

Acceptable Medications: Prescriptions, prescription patches, prescription medications, prescription ointments, over-the-counter medications, vitamins, medication samples, and pet medications.

Unacceptable Items: Thermometers, hydrogen peroxide, inhalers, aerosol cans, ointments, lotions, liquids, “sharps” (i.e., needles, lancets, syringes, IV’s), and any medications or items from entities such as, but not limited to, businesses, pharmacies, and health care providers.

MedReturn™ Drug Collection Unit (DCU): A secure drop-box designed for the disposal of acceptable medications.

Property Control Officer: Sworn member of the police department responsible for control and maintenance of all evidence submitted and stored in the department evidence/property storage areas. Also responsible for all items of found, recovered, and evidentiary property submitted to the property control system.

04 Procedure

A. MedReturn™ Drug Collection Unit (DCU)

1. The DCU shall be located in the lobby of the Narragansett Police Department in an area that affords an accessible and anonymous drop-off point to the public on a 24-hour/7 day per week basis.
2. Non-sworn members of the department shall neither accept, nor receive into their possession, any items from any entity for disposal into the DCU.
3. Acceptable medications that are physically turned over to any sworn department employee for disposal shall not be deposited into the DCU, but shall be treated as recovered property and handled in accordance with established department procedures governing such property.
4. The DCU shall be continuously monitored by the video surveillance system.
5. The DCU shall be securely locked with a uniquely keyed padlock at all times except when being emptied by authorized personnel.
6. The padlock shall be provided by the Officer in Charge of the Detective Division and it shall not be changed without his/her prior written consent
7. The duplication of the padlock key is prohibited.
8. The DCU shall have a sign posted upon it listing both acceptable medications that may be placed inside the unit and unacceptable items that may not be placed inside the unit.
9. The point of contact for community relations and routine questions regarding the DCU is the Community Policing Division.

B. Collection and Control

1. The security of the DCU shall fall under the responsibility of the Property Control Officer. The direct supervisor for issues relating to the DCU is the Detective Lieutenant or his/her designee.
2. The sole possessor of the key to the padlock of the DCU is the Property Control Officer.
3. The Property Control Officer shall be responsible for the security of the key.

4. The Property Control Officer shall be responsible for ensuring access cannot be gained into the storage area located within the DCU by affixing the padlock to the DCU after completion of their duties.
5. The Property Control Officer shall be present at all times whenever the DCU is opened.
6. The DCU shall be opened and inspected periodically to ensure that it does not become overfilled.
7. The DCU shall be emptied as needed, but no less than once per month.
8. When emptied, the contents of the DCU shall be immediately transferred to the Property and Evidence Room by the Property Control Officer.
9. A documented inventory of the contents is not mandatory, but may be performed by both the Property Control Officer at his/her discretion.
10. The contents will be bagged, sealed, bar-coded, and placed in the drug locker located within the Property and Evidence Room.
11. The sealed bag containing the contents will be disposed of in accordance with established department guidelines.
12. Additionally, whenever the DCU is opened or emptied, a narrative shall be kept under the property number by the Property Control Officer containing the following information:
 - a. Date and time of opening or emptying of the DCU.
 - b. Date and time contents removed from the temporary drug locker for destruction.

By Order Of:

Chief of Police