

MANAGING SAMPLE MEDICATION

Expired sample medications managed properly will help keep down the pharmaceutical waste management costs for your facility. Drugs returned to a distributor do not count toward your generator status and are not subject to stringent hazardous waste regulations.

1. Expired sample medicines are required to be taken back by the distributor according to a Florida Drugs, Devices and Cosmetics Program regulation. The regulation reads in part: "Disposal. All complimentary or sample packages of prescription drugs which are expired shall be returned to the manufacturer or distributor." [61N-1.008(2) Florida Administrative Code. You can call the Drugs Devices and Cosmetics program for more information on how these samples should be handled at 850-487-1395.
2. If your facility is associated with a hospital, talk to them about including your unwanted medicine with their pharmaceuticals that are handled by a Reverse Distributor. Reverse Distributors are not generally a cost effective way for clinics to manage drugs on their own.
3. In the future, consider setting up a more stringent office policy for sample medications management, ensuring that there are fewer that expire in your office:
 - Have drug representatives sign in and list what they leave behind so you can maintain an accurate inventory of drugs on hand.
 - Only accept drugs you know you will use.
 - Do not accept short-dated drugs (less than 1 year).
 - Make sure products are rotated on the shelves.
 - Some clinics are going to a voucher system and eliminating sample all together.