



STATE OF WASHINGTON
Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission
Olympia, Washington 98504

DEA Final Rule: Disposal of Pharmaceutical Controlled Substances

The federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) adopted [rules](#) regarding the disposal of pharmaceutical **controlled substances**. The rules, effective on October 9, 2014, create regulations related to the disposal process for unused or unwanted **controlled substances**. The new federal rule allows Washington licensed pharmacies with Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission (commission)-approved take-back programs and protocols to expand collections to include controlled substances.

When Must A Facility Request Commission Approval?

- The facility holds a license issued by the commission.
- The commission hasn't approved the facility to operate or participate in pharmaceutical take-back program.
- The facility has an approved take-back program, but wishes to place a collection receptacle at a long-term care facility.
- The facility has made substantive changes to the policies and protocol the commission originally approved.

Steps to Request Commission Approval

- Submit the drafted plan to the Washington State Pharmacy Commission.
- For consideration, submit the plan no later than six weeks before the commission meeting.
- Contact the commission office with further inquiries at wspqac@doh.wa.gov.
- Present the plan for official commission approval (either a new plan or implementing an approved plan at a new site).
- If the plan involves the take-back of controlled medications, the plan must meet the DEA requirements.
- Register with DEA as an authorized collector; collection site.

- Once the commission gives approval, contact the DEA for authorization to collect controlled substances. DEA registrants may modify their registration [online](#) to become authorized collectors.