

Chapter 2, Subchapter 6 - Rule Governing the Safe Disposal of Unused Drugs

1.0 Authority

This rule is adopted pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 5291.

2.0 Purpose

This rule provides the requirements for the safe disposal of unused medication prescribed to a patient utilizing the 18 V.S.A. chapter 113, Patient Choice at the End of Life.

3.0 Definitions

- 3.1 “Cat litter” means a granulated clay or like substance that is manufactured with the intent that it be placed in a container where it absorbs the waste products of a cat or dog.
- 3.2 “Unused” means a legally prescribed dose of medication that is not ingested by patient to whom the dose was prescribed.
- 3.4 “Lawful means” means those methods that are approved of by the United States Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).
- 3.5 “Drug take-back programs” are state and federal programs, approved by the DEA, that provide for the drop-off of unused, unwanted, or expired medications at designated sites.

4.0 Safe Disposal

- 4.1 Any medication dispensed under 18 V.S.A. chapter 113 that is not self-administered, must be disposed of by lawful means. Lawful means include:
 - a. Following the disposal instructions, if any, found on the medications label;
 - b. Drug take-back programs that allow the public to bring, or send, drugs to a disposal center;

- c. Mix the crushed or liquid medication with a substance to make it unusable and unrecognizable such as coffee grounds or cat litter and dispose of the mixture in a sealed bag as solid waste;
- d. Other approved methodologies described at the websites of the Vermont Department of Health (<http://healthvermont.gov/>) and the Federal Drug Administration's (www.fda.gov).