Pharmaceutical and Sharps EPR Program: Ontario, Canada
Rev. 8/22/18

In 2012, the Ontario Regulation 298/12 “Collection of Pharmaceuticals and Sharps - Responsibilities of Producers” went into effect under the Ontario EPA.¹ The regulation mandates a 90% participation rate among eligible pharmacies, which is currently exceeded with a 91.7% participation rate.¹

Organizing Body: The Health Products Stewardship Association (HPSA), a non-profit organization funded and governed by the health product industries.² The HPSA administers the Ontario Medications Return Program (OMRP) and the Ontario Sharps Collection Program (OSCP).²

Costs & Funding: Manufactures of pharmaceuticals must provide collection and disposal of both sharps and medicines at no cost to consumers.¹

The OMRP and OSCP are 100% industry funded.² A complete list of funders can be found in the Annual Report.

Program Facts: Ontario Regulation 298 states that 90% pharmacy participation rate is mandatory.¹

Sharps: In 2017, a total of 292,153.96 kilograms, or approximately 644,089 pounds, of sharps waste, including cytotoxic sharps, were collected. This figure includes the weight of the container in which the sharps were managed.³

In 2017, 67% of householders returned their unwanted medication to a pharmacy. However, 24% admitted to throwing medicines away in the garbage and 8% in the sink or toilet.⁴

Meds: In 2017, a total of 291,273.39 kilograms, or approximately 642,148 pounds, of pharmaceutical waste was destroyed. This figure includes the weight of the container in which the sharps were managed.³

A local assessment of the awareness among diabetics indicated 64% used their local pharmacy to dispose of used devices (needles, syringes, and lancets).⁵
When a prescription is filled for a cytotoxic medication that has a sharp, the **recommended practice is to provide a new sharps container** with a cytotoxic label to the customer at the same time.³

**Collection Locations & Accessibility:**

As of December 31, 2017, the collection network was comprised of 3,929 pharmacies, or **approximately 91.7% of eligible pharmacies.³**

HPSA sent over **32,900 brochures and bookmarks** to pharmacies, municipalities, doctor’s offices/hospitals and other partners for public distribution.³

In 2017 HPSA advertisements through Google AdWords which generated a total of **45,317 impressions.** They also advertised programs in **737,550 municipal collection calendars.³**

**Timeline:**

1999: The Post Consumer Pharmaceutical Stewardship Association (now called the Health Products Stewardship Association) was created.⁷

**October 1, 2012:** Ontario Regulation 298/12 “Collection of Pharmaceuticals and Sharps - Responsibilities of Producers” under the Ontario EPA came into force.¹

**December 2013:** First year of full operation for OMRP and OSCP.

**January 1, 2013:** Deadline for producers to have 80% of accredited pharmacies or 80% of retail locations act as collection locations. The producers exceeded the mandate by having 84% host bins.¹

**January 1, 2014:** Deadline for producers to have 90% of accredited pharmacies or 90% of retail locations participate as collection locations. The producers exceeded the mandate by having 90.8% host bins.¹

**December 2017:** In the programs OMRP and OSCP’s fifth full calendar year they are still meeting the program participation standards set in Ontario Regulation 298/12.³

**References:**