Mexico has provided consumers with collection and disposal of unused pharmaceuticals through SINGREM since 2007.¹ Article 17 of DOF 30-11-2006 establishes the mandatory regulation for the collection and disposal of unused medicines. The pharmaceutical industry in Mexico has the responsibility to fund all program costs.³

Organizing Body: The non-profit organization, SINGREM, was created by the pharmaceutical industry: National Chamber of the Pharmaceutical Industry (CANIFARMA), Mexican Association of Pharmaceutical Research Industries (AMIF), and National Association of Drug Manufacturers (ANAFAM) to collect and treat unused medicines in 2007. In 2008, the SINGREM pilot program was launched in Puebla. Due to the pilot program’s success, CANIFARMA council approved SINGREM to be carried out permanently at the national level.¹ The Secretariat of Parliamentary Services granted the registration of the SINGREM management plan on December 19, 2008.²,⁷

Costs & Funding: SINGREM is funded entirely by the pharmaceutical industry.³ SINGREM urges pharmaceutical companies who have yet to contribute to SINGREM “to be a responsible company committed to health and the environment” and supplies contact information for interested parties: comunicacion@singrem.org.mx.⁴

A full list of member companies can be found on SINGREM website.⁵

Program Facts: From 2010-2017, SINGREM has collected a total of 5,317,765 lbs. of unused medicines and served 71,677,583 million people.⁶

Photos (above): Consumers place unused medicines in collection bin with original packaging for safe disposal
Collection Locations & Accessibility:

- As of 2017, there are over 5,100 collection sites, the majority of them located in pharmacies. 

- Consumers can bring unused medicines inside the original packaging to any collection location, SINGREM does not provide additional packaging.

- Sharps waste is not included in the SINGREM collection program at this time.

- SINGREM has a collection location search engine on their website, searches can be defined by state, delegation/municipality, or colony.

Timeline:

December 2005: National legislation, NOM-052-SEMARNAT-2005o, defined expired medicines are considered hazardous waste and therefore must be disposed of responsibly.


2007: The non-profit organization, SINGREM, was created by the pharmaceutical industry to collect and treat unused medicines mandated by The General Law for the Prevention and Integral Management of Residues.

December 2008: SINGREM officially registered as a satisfactory management program for the handling of hazardous pharmaceutical waste by the Secretariat of Parliamentary Services.

2010: SINGREM began operations in the states of Guanajuato, Querétaro, Hidalgo, and Puebla. Due to initial success the states of Morelos, Aguascalientes, Tlaxcala, Jalisco, State of Mexico and Mexico City were joined later in 2011.

2016: SINGREM has more than 4,600 collection containers in 27 states, and planned to cover the Mexican Republic by the end of 2016.

December 2017: In Mexico City, 1,312,056 lbs. of unused medicines were collected from 2010-2017.

Reference List

2. “Macro Legal” singrem, accessed July 2018, Web