Organizing Body: Bonusage (www.bonusage.be), is a part of Pharma.be (pharma.be), a non-profit organization that represents the pharmaceutical industry in Belgium.1 Bonusage is organized by the following groups:

- Pharmaceutical wholesalers2
- Pharmaceutical manufacturers2
- Regional environmental agencies2

Program Description: The collection and disposal of pharmaceutical waste in Belgium first began in 2000, and was implemented in the Brussels region in 2002. This system is organized through a partnership of the pharmaceutical wholesalers, pharmaceutical manufacturers, and pharmacies in collaboration with regional environmental agencies. Funding is divided amongst pharmaceutical wholesalers and the pharmaceutical manufacturers.1

Funding: Funded entirely by the pharmaceutical industry comprised of wholesalers and manufactures.1

- Pharmaceutical wholesalers are required to cover the cost of collection, storage and transportation to disposal sites1
- Pharmaceutical manufacturers are responsible for the cost of incinerating the pharmaceutical waste based on market share1
- Since 2005, pharmaceutical manufacturers also pay a fee for each waste container ordered from the wholesalers1

Program Costs: 2011: Approximately USD $106,311 (EUR €90,0003) to dispose of 206 tons (186,908 kg) in the region of Wallonia,1 which calculates to approximately USD $0.27 per pound. A third of Belgium’s population lives in Wallonia.4

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Belgium

International Pharmaceutical EPR Program Fact Sheet

Program Chronology:

- 2000: System officially begins
- Before 2005, waste products could be returned to hazardous waste sites and specific drop off locations
- After 2005, waste products could only be returned to pharmacies

Collection Locations: Pharmacies are obligated to participate in the system. If they do not, citizens can file a complaint with the regional environmental agency.

Results:

- 2000-2011: Total amount of waste collected increased by 33%, or an average of 2.5% per year
- 2011: 631 tons (572 metric tons) of unused medication were returned in all of Belgium; an average of 245 lbs (111 kg) per pharmacy. In the specific region of Wallonia, 15,776 medicine containers were collected from pharmacies. This amounted to a total weight of 206 tons (186,908 kg) with an average of .11 lbs (=53 g) per citizen

Bonusage Informational Flyer (Bonusage Website)

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5 “Unused Pharmaceuticals Where Do They End Up?”, 12.