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Medsaway® Aligns with the New DEA Regulations

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The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) recently announced the implementation of the revised Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act of 2010. Beginning in October 2014, this new ruling is intended to allow consumers and end-users of pharmaceuticals to have improved methods for disposing of unused or unwanted painkillers or other abusable drugs.

In the new rules, acceptable methods of destruction for controlled substances are also addressed. The DEA clarified that once a controlled substance has been appropriately destroyed, it is no longer subject to the requirements of the DEA regulations. **Sewering (disposal by flushing down a toilet or sink) and simple mixing of drugs with cat litter or coffee grounds and disposing of them in landfills do not meet the destruction standard.**

The DEA is not requiring a specific method of destruction for controlled substances that are collected, and they will not be performing evaluations to qualify any particular method. Registrants are free to use their own methods of destruction so long as, in the end, the drug is "non-retrievable", which means the condition or state to which a controlled substance shall be rendered following a process that permanently alters the controlled substance's physical or chemical condition or state through irreversible means and thereby renders the controlled substance unavailable and unusable for all practical purposes. Refer to 21C.F.R. 1300.05(b) for the full ruling. In the notice for the proposed rulemaking (NPRM), the DEA clarified that this definition is not intended to require destruction beyond the state that at which a drug becomes unavailable, unusable and subsequently, no longer available for diversion.

The patented Medsaway®, containing activated carbon, renders drug substances inert, by a chemical reaction, adsorption, which binds the drug to carbon. Verde Environmental Technologies, Inc. has conducted several evaluations that demonstrate this reaction as one that renders drugs non-retrievable and unavailable and unusable for all practical purposes¹.

We conclude that Medsaway®, when used as directed, meets the DEA standard for destruction.

We encourage you to read the product evaluations on Medsaway.com. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Verde about Medsaway® and the DEA with questions regarding the revised drug disposal ruling.

References and links for more information:

1. Summary Report: Use of Medsaway® Activated Carbon adsorption technologies as a means to render drugs unavailable, unusable, and, subsequently no longer available for diversion. Available at www.medsaway.com.
2. <http://atwork.avma.org/2014/09/12/what-does-the-deas-final-rule-mean-for-veterinary-practices/>
3. <http://www.nabp.net/news/dea-finalizes-rule-on-controlled-substance-prescription-drug-disposal>
4. http://www.fdalawblog.net/fda_law_blog_hyman_phelps/2014/09/dea-issues-final-rule-on-controlled-substance-disposal.html
5. <http://deachronicles.quarles.com/2014/09/dea-announces-new-ways-for-the-public-to-dispose-of-unused-controlled-substances/>