

P.E.I. Medications & Medical
Sharps Return Program

ANNUAL REPORT

for the period of
January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

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CEO Letter

Dear Stakeholders,

I'm pleased to report 2024 was a year of significant achievement for the Health Products Stewardship Association (HPSA).

It was a year marked by substantial progress in fostering consumer engagement in take-back programs, strengthening collaboration with collection partners, and continuing efforts to educate consumers about the environmental impact of incorrect disposal of health products while promoting sustainable stewardship practices. Our take-back programs are carefully designed to ensure the safe, compliant, and environmentally responsible disposal of unused or expired medications and used medical sharps collected from consumers.

HPSA experienced significant growth in member recruitment in 2024, reaching a total of 166 members. This growth highlights the increased commitment of health products producers to fulfill their Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) obligations.

Through our collective stewardship programs, HPSA helps its members meet these obligations by ensuring the safe disposal of products at the end of their life cycle, supporting a more sustainable and responsible approach to health product management.

We are committed to working with Prince Edward Island Environment, Energy and Climate Action to ensure compliance and environmental stewardship in accordance with the Materials Stewardship and Recycling Regulations (Divisions 6 and 7), pursuant to Section 25 of the Environmental Protection Act (EPA).

On behalf of our members, HPSA administers the Island Medications Return Program (IMRP) for pharmaceutical products (prescription drugs, non-prescription drugs, and natural health products) and the Island Sharps Collection Program (ISCP) for medical sharps that are sold for use by "consumers or in residential setting".

In 2024, HPSA grew the collection network to **50 locations** across PEI, representing an 100% participation rate of all licensed pharmacies in the province. HPSA collected **3,783.6 kilograms** of unwanted medications and **8,086.4 kilograms** of used medical sharps. These achievements were possible due to the collaborative efforts of our collection locations.

As the organization enters its 25th year of existence, HPSA remains devoted to continuous improvements in the delivery of the IMRP and the ISCP. As we continue to execute our strategy and work towards achieving our goals, we look forward to enhancing consumer participation, improving accessibility, and promoting safe disposal of health products.

Best Regards,

Delphine Lagourgue

President & Chief Executive Officer

Definitions

Collection Location Sites	Community pharmacies registered in the HPSA programs to collect unused and/or expired Pharmaceuticals and used Medical Sharps returned from the public.
IMRP	Island Medications Return Program
ISCP	Island Sharps Collection Program
Medical Sharps	A needle, safety engineered needle, lancet, or other similar instrument that is designed to puncture the skin for medical purposes and that is sold or otherwise distributed, and includes anything affixed to the medical sharp, including a syringe.
Natural Health Products	<p>Under the federal Natural Health Products Regulations (SOR /2003-196), natural health products (NHPs) are defined as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vitamins and minerals • Herbal remedies • Homeopathic medicines • Traditional medicines such as traditional Chinese medicines • Probiotics • Other products like amino acids and essential fatty acids <p>NHPs must be safe to use as over-the-counter products and do not need a prescription to be sold.</p>

<p>Non-Prescription Drugs</p>	<p>Non-prescription drugs do not require a prescription of a practitioner under Section C.01.040.03 of the Food and Drugs Regulations in order to be sold and are not listed in the Prescription Drug List established under Section 29.1 of the Food and Drugs Act.</p> <p>Examples include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A drug available from a pharmacist but does not require a prescription. These are the drugs located in the area of the pharmacy "behind the counter", where there is no public access and no opportunity for patient self-selection, or 2) A drug which does not require a prescription and is available for self-selection from the area of the pharmacy under the direct supervision of the pharmacist, or 3) A drug that may be purchased from any retail outlet (such as a grocery store).
<p>Pharmaceuticals</p>	<p>Products sold directly to consumers and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescription drugs • Non-prescription drugs • Natural health products. <p>The terms "medications" and "pharmaceuticals" have the same meaning in this Annual Report.</p>
<p>Prescription Drugs</p>	<p>A drug listed in the Prescription Drug List established under Section 29.1 of the Food and Drugs Act, requiring a prescription for sale in Canada</p>
<p>Regulation</p>	<p><i>Environmental Protection Act's Material Stewardship and Recycling Regulations</i></p>
<p>Steward</p>	<p>Brand-owner/producer who is a member of the Health Products Stewardship Association (HPSA)</p>

Section I: Program Performance

PERFORMANCE MEASURES	RESULTS
QUANTITY COLLECTED	<p>In 2024, the following quantities were returned through the IMRP and the ISCP:</p> <p>The IMRP collected 3,783.6 kg of Pharmaceuticals returned by the public for safe disposal.</p> <p>The ISCP collected 8,086.4 kg of Medical Sharps returned by the public for safe disposal.</p> <p>Table 1 and Table 2 provides collection by regions.</p>
ACCESSIBILITY	<p>50 collection locations sites or 100% of all registered community pharmacies in Prince Edward Island</p> <p>See the full list in Appendix 3.</p>
PHARMACIES	<p>HPSA publishes and makes available information to educate both the pharmacists and the public on the IMRP and the ISCP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website: www.healthsteward.ca • HPSA Collection Location Portal • Pharmacy newsletters • Promotional material order form • HPSA branded containers with MRP and SCP logo • Rack cards and bookmarks on IMRP and ISCP

**EDUCATION OUTREACH AND
CAMPAIGNS**

- HPSA website with updated FAQs and easy-to-navigate sections for consumers and pharmacists to find relevant information
- Drop-off location map on the website to find the closest collection site
- Social media campaigns to promote consumer awareness and education
- Information provided by IWMC in the frame of its Agreement with HPSA.

Section II: Program Outline

The IMRP and ISCP address the extended producer responsibility (EPR) for all types of Pharmaceuticals and Medical Sharps sold for consumer use in the province of Prince Edward Island. These programs are designed to ensure that collection services are available in all regions of the province and that all returned Pharmaceuticals and Medical Sharps are packaged, handled, stored, transported and disposed of in a safe, compliant and environmentally responsible manner. The compliance requirements of both programs are dictated by the Materials Stewardship and Recycling Regulations.

This regulation requires producers of Pharmaceuticals and Medical Sharps to provide Islanders with access to free and convenient collection locations for the collection and responsible disposal of their unused or expired Pharmaceuticals and used Medical Sharps.

The list of members that are participating in the Island Medications Return Program (IMRP) and the Island Sharps Collection Program (ISCP) are attached in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2, respectively.

Section III: Collection System

Collection sites for the IMRP and ISCP are community pharmacies. Pharmacies are a logical and safe system for the public to return unused or expired Pharmaceuticals and used Medical Sharps. Many have extended hours and offer a convenient place for consumer disposal year-round. Specific information is provided to ensure that pharmacy managers and staff are knowledgeable about the program objectives and how the program operates.

All participating community pharmacies receive information containing specific instructions and guidelines, as well as educational materials to distribute to the public. For the collection of returned Pharmaceuticals, pharmacies can order HPSA branded containers by filling out request forms through HPSA. The containers are clearly marked with HPSA's logo and contact information, as well as a description of what can and cannot be placed in the containers. For the collection of used Medical Sharps, by filling out request forms through HPSA, pharmacies can order sharps containers to distribute for free to patients. These HPSA branded containers are clearly marked for domestic use only with HPSA's logo and instructions on how to secure containers and prepare for transportation. HPSA accepts any approved medical sharp containers, HPSA branded or not.

Section IV: Program Collections

In 2024, the quantity of unwanted Pharmaceuticals collected was **0.021 kg** per capita, representing a total of **3,783.6 kg** returned for disposal. The quantity of used Medical Sharps collected was **0.045 kg** per capita, representing a total of **8,086.4 kg** returned for disposal.

The below charts summarize the IMRP and ISCP collections over the last five years.

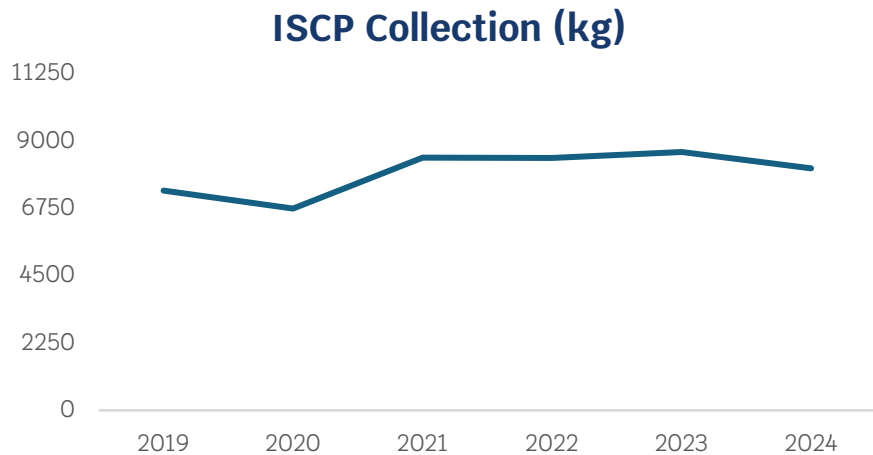
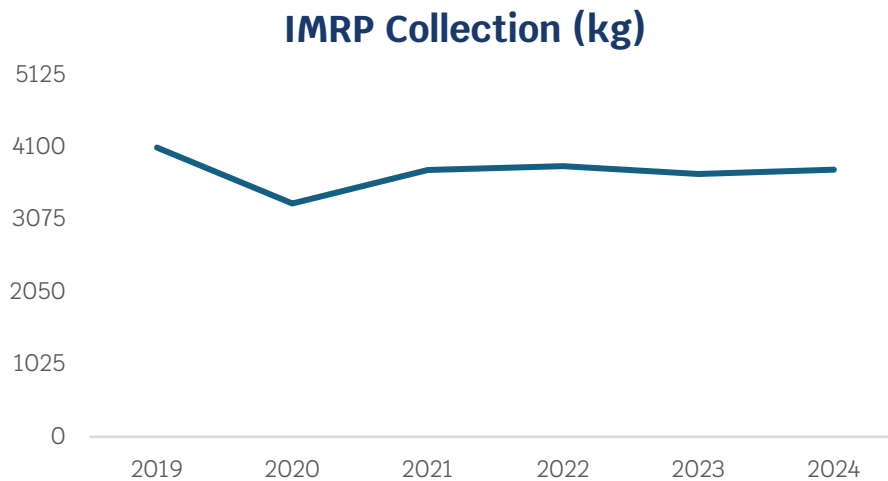


Table 1 Overview of unused and/or expired Pharmaceuticals collected in 2024 per region.

REGIONS	Collection Sites	First Quarter		Second Quarter		Third Quarter		Fourth Quarter		2023 Total	
		Bins	Weight (kg)	Bins	Weight (kg)	Bins	Weight (kg)	Bins	Weight (kg)	Bins	Weight (kg)
Charlottetown	18	31	335.3	34	309.4	33	338.9	42	435.6	140	1,419.2
Green Gables Shore	3	6	59.6	4	47.7	5	49.5	7	89.9	22	246.7
North Cape Coastal Region	14	26	276.7	21	201.8	28	305.9	19	210.2	94	994.6
Points East Coastal Drive	10	20	225.4	13	137.2	17	171.2	16	153.9	66	687.7
Red Sands Shore	3	5	56.9	2	23.1	7	73.4	8	81.4	22	234.8
Western	2	7	41.2	6	36.4	12	58.7	11	64.3	36	200.6
Grand Total	50	95	995.1	80	755.5	102.0	997.6	103	1,035.3	380	3,783.6

Table 2 Overview of used Medical Sharps collected in 2024 per region.

REGIONS	Collecti on Sites	First Quarter		Second Quarter		Third Quarter		Fourth Quarter		2023 Total	
		bins	Weight (kg)	bins	Weight (kg)	bins	Weight (kg)	bins	Weight (kg)	bins	Weight (kg)
Charlottetown	18	60	778.4	41	581.3	72	858	79	924.3	252	3,092
Green Gables Shore	3	10	132.8	9	121.3	7	88.8	13	199.8	39	542.7
North Cape Coastal Region	14	57	808.1	30	398.9	49	665.4	47	578.1	183	2,450.5
Points East Coastal Drive	10	26	347.4	21	260.5	30	387.4	26	301.4	103	1,296.7
Red Sands Shore	3	10	128.2	4	58.2	8	106.9	12	149.9	34	443.2
Western	2	4	56.7	4	53.4	6	74.2	6	77.0	20	261.3
Grand Total	50	167	2,251.6	109	1,423.6	172	2,180.7	183	2,230.5	661	8,086.4

Section V: Public Education Materials and Campaigns

1. Provincial and National Campaigns

In 2024, HPSA developed and executed a range of nationwide and regional initiatives to boost program awareness, education and engagement. This section highlights key campaigns from the year. Through earned outreach efforts, these campaigns secured 6 interviews, 2 press releases, and 18.5 million impressions.

Don't Dump Drugs

HPSA's "Don't Dump Drugs" campaign aims to raise awareness about the environmental dangers of improper medication and sharps disposal. The campaign focuses on simple, engaging messaging that resonates across generations and cultures, using the memorable slogan "Don't Dump Drugs" to drive the message home. By personifying common disposal methods, like toilets and trash bins, we emphasize the harmful consequences these actions have on the environment. In addition, a new logo, inspired by the recycling symbol, was created to promote safe disposal practices and encourage the return of medications and medical sharps to pharmacies. This initiative seeks to change behaviours and foster greater public participation in protecting the environment through responsible disposal.

National Drug Drop Off Month

In recognition of National Drug Drop-Off Month in August, HPSA collaborated with Drug Free Kids (DFK) Canada to raise awareness among Canadian parents and consumers about the correct way to dispose of unused medication and safe storage in the household. A 2023 Leger survey, commissioned by HPSA, revealed that 70% of Canadian parents admit to leaving their medications in a place that is accessible by their children and 87% of Canadian parents do not consider the safe disposal of unwanted medications as essential

The campaign was divided into 4 components:

- **Radio Campaign:** a joint Radio Campaign under the theme of “Unfortunately, it happens too often” was aired for 13 weeks in 240 Radio outlets across Canada, reaching a total of 23,000 Broadcast.
- **Nation-wide Webinar:** Webinars explored the impact of substance use on youth mental health, particularly during the back-to-school season, while focusing on limiting access to drugs by returning unwanted medications. HPSA’s CEO had an intervention segment during the webinars to help parents prevent misuse in their household.

- **Activation Event:** HPSA participated in “Take-back day”, in collaboration with Rexall pharmacies, to promote safe disposal and engage the communities in the return program. The attendees were provided with educational material, learned more about the campaign and the role families and caregivers play in prevention efforts.
- **Media News Highlights:** To promote this initiative, articles were published in 104 print and digital outlets. HPSA was interviewed on a CTV News report, and with our partner DFK, participated in a segment on The Evan Bray Show.

Diabetes Awareness Month

During diabetes awareness month in November, HPSA ran a campaign targeting diabetes patients to raise awareness on the importance of safe disposal of Sharps. The campaign consisted of social media and press releases in both English and French. An interview about “Green tips for diabetes: Smart disposal for a healthier and safer planet ” was broadcast on Radio CHSJ/Acadia.

2. Conferences and Symposiums

In 2024, HPSA actively engaged with industry experts and educational institutions to enhance awareness of the IMRP and IBSCP programs. The organization participated in a range of conferences and symposiums aimed at informing the public, pharmacists and producers, with the goal of driving program awareness, members’ engagement and increasing participation at collection facilities. These efforts were part of a broader strategy to elevate program visibility and foster stronger industry collaboration.

Speaking Engagement: Canadian Health Food Association (CHFA)

At the 2024 CHFA conference, HPSA discussed the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for health product producers. HPSA highlighted the importance of EPR programs in promoting sustainability and ensuring that producers take responsibility for the lifecycle of their products. By participating in the conference, HPSA helped raise awareness among producers about their evolving obligations under EPR regulations and encouraged industry-wide collaboration to create more sustainable practices in the health products sector.

Conference – PEI Pharmacy Association

HPSA participated in PEI Pharmacy Association’s annual conference in May 2024. It was an excellent opportunity to engage with pharmacy professionals and industry leaders. We had in-depth conversations with attendees about safe disposal practices, product stewardship, and the important role pharmacies play in managing medical waste.

3. Social Media and Website

In 2024, HPSA achieved significant growth and engagement through our social media channels, amplifying our reach and impact within the health products sector. Through a combination of organic content and targeted paid digital ads, we effectively expanded our audience base and increased awareness of key initiatives.

Insights:

- The paid ads allowed us to broaden our visibility and connect with new stakeholders with more than 300,000 impressions.
- The campaign generated more than 6,000 visits to the website.
- This balanced approach helped strengthen our online presence, resulting in increased interactions and a deeper connection with our audience.

HPSA's website underwent a comprehensive revamp, resulting in a more streamlined and user-friendly layout. The site now features distinct sections and detailed guidelines for each province, for Consumers and Collection Locations separately, offering updated information on the proper procedures for returning medical sharps and medications. New resources were also added.

4. Educational Materials

HPSA enhanced its educational assets to ensure users can easily access vital resources and information. The updated guides now offer a more streamlined and informative layout, featuring direct links to educational videos, collection location maps, and other materials available on the HPSA website. These resources are designed to provide clear, step-by-step guidance on the safe disposal of medications and medical sharps, as well as other critical topics. The updates aim to improve consumer knowledge and foster greater participation in safe disposal practices.

Collection Locations Guides:

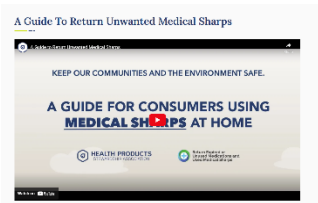
- [Medications Return program guide](#)
- [Medical Sharps Return program guide](#)

Consumer Guides:

- [Consumers Medications return guide](#)
- [Consumers Medical Sharps return guide](#)

Videos:

- How to assemble a Sharps Container
- How to Return Medications
- A guide for Consumer Using Medical Sharps



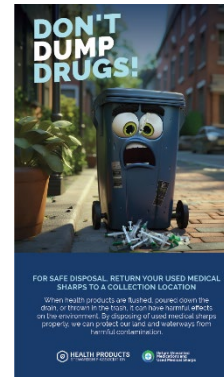
LET'S BUILD A HEALTHIER AND SAFER ENVIRONMENT TOGETHER
Follow these steps to return your used medical sharps.

Step 1
Use a sharps container from your local collection location (subject to availability).

Step 2
After use, place used medical sharps in the provided container, ensuring the depth of sharps sits below the fill/capact line.

Step 3
Immediately close the container following the instructions and return it to a collection location.

FIND A COLLECTION LOCATION NEAR YOU
For more information visit healthsteward.ca

Appendix 1: HPSA Members – IMRP

3M Healthcare Canada Company Limited	Bausch Health, Canada Inc.
AA Pharma Inc.	Baxter Canada
AbbVie Corporation	Bayer Inc.
Accel Pharma Inc	BGP Pharma (Mylan)
Accord Healthcare	Biocon Biologics Canada, Inc.
Advanced Orthomolecular Research (AOR)	Bioforce Canada Inc.
Advantage Solutions	BioGaia Probiotics Canada Inc.
Alcon Canada Inc.	Biogen Canada Inc
Amgen Canada Inc.	Biomed Pharma
Amway Canada Corporation	BioSyent Pharma Inc.
Apotex Inc.	Blistex Corporation
Aralez Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc.	Body Plus Nutritional Products Inc.
Arcutis Biotherapeutics Inc.	Boehringer Ingelheim Canada Ltd.
Aspen Pharmacare Canada Inc	Boiron Canada
Astellas Pharma Canada Inc.	Bristol-Myers Squibb
AstraZeneca Canada Inc.	Canadian Custom Packaging Company
Atrium Innovations Inc	Celex Laboratories Inc.
Auro Pharma Inc	Church & Dwight Canada
Avir Pharma	Cipher Pharmaceuticals Inc.
Bausch + Lomb Corporation	Clorox Company of Canada Ltd.

Costco Wholesale Canada	Indivior Canada
D Drops Company	Ipsen Biopharmaceuticals Canada Inc
Dr. Reddy's Laboratories	Jamieson Laboratories
Duchesnay	Jamp Pharma Corporation
Eisai	Janssen Inc.
Eli Lilly Canada Inc.	Kenvue Canada Inc.
EXZELL PHARMA IN	Laboratoire Riva
Ferring Inc.	Laboratoire Trianon
Fresenius Kabi Canada Ltd.	Laboratoires Atlas Inc.
Galderma Canada Inc.	Laboratoires Confab Inc.
Generic Medical Partners Inc.	Leadiant Biosciences Inc.
Gilead Sciences Canada Inc.	Leo Pharma Inc.
GlaxoSmithKline Inc.	Les Laboratoires Nicar Inc.
Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc.	Life Science Nutritionals Inc.
GNC Canada Holdings, LLC	Loblaw Companies Ltd.
Haleon	Lundbeck Canada Inc.
Health First Network Association Inc.	Lupin Pharma Canada Ltd.
Herbalife of Canada	Mannatech Incorporated
HLS Therapeutics	Mantra Pharma Inc.
HPI Health Products/Lakota	Marcan Pharmaceuticals Inc.
Imperial Tobacco Canada Limited	McKesson Canada
Incyte Biosciences Canada	Mead Johnson Nutrition (Canada) Co.

Medexus Pharmaceuticals Inc.	Pattison Food Group Ltd.
Medisca Pharmaceutique Inc.	Pfizer Canada Inc.
Merck Canada Inc.	Pharmasave Drugs Ltd
Mint Pharmaceuticals Inc	Pharmascience Inc.
Mylan Pharmaceuticals ULC	Platinum Naturals Ltd
Natco Pharma Canada Inc.	Procter & Gamble Inc.
Natural Factors Nutritional Products Ltd.	Purdue Pharma
Nature's Sunshine Products of Canada Ltd.	Puresource Corp
Nestle Canada Inc	RB Health Canada Inc.
New Chapter Canada Inc.	Rexall Pharmacy Group Ltd.
New Nordic Inc.	Roche Canada Ltd. - Hoffmann
Nora Pharma	Sandoz Canada
Novartis Pharmaceutical Canada Inc.	Sanis Health Inc.
Novo Nordisk	Sanofi Consumer Health
Odan Laboratories Ltd.	Sanofi-Aventis Canada Inc.
Omega Alpha Pharmaceuticals Inc.	Seaford Pharmaceuticals
OMEGA LABORATORIES CANADA	Servier Canada Inc.
Organika Health Products Inc.	Shaklee Canada Inc.
Organon Canada Inc	Shoppers Drug Mart Inc.
Otsuka Canada Pharmaceuticals Inc.	Sivem Pharmaceuticals ULC
Paladin Pharma Inc.	Smith & Nephew Inc
Pascoe Canada Inc	Sobeys National (Mississauga)

St. Francis Herb Farm

Stella Pharmaceutical Canada Inc.

Sterimax Inc.

Sumitomo Pharma Canada Inc.

Sun Global Industries Inc.

Takeda Canada Inc.

Tanta Pharmaceuticals Inc.

Taro Pharmaceuticals Inc.

Teva Canada / Novopharm

UCB Canada Inc.

Unilever Canada Inc.

USANA Health Sciences

Valeo Pharma Inc

Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated

Vita Health Products Inc.

Wal-Mart Canada Corp

WellSpring Pharmaceutical Canada Corp.

Westcoast Naturals

WN Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

Appendix 2: HPSA Members – ISCP

A&D Instruments Canada Inc.	LifeScan Canada ULC
Abbott Diabetes Care	Medexus Pharmaceuticals Inc.
AbbVie Corporation	Novartis Pharmaceutical Canada Inc.
Accord Healthcare	Novo Nordisk
Amgen Canada Inc.	Organon Canada Inc
Apotex Inc.	Paladin Pharma Inc.
Ascensia Diabetes Care Canada Inc.	Pfizer Canada Inc.
AstraZeneca Canada Inc.	Roche Canada Ltd. – Hoffmann
Bausch Health, Canada Inc.	Roche Diabetes Care – a division of Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd
Biocon Biologics Canada, Inc.	Sandoz Canada
Biogen Canada Inc	Sanofi-Aventis Canada Inc.
Bristol-Myers Squibb	SOBI Canada (Swedish Orphan Biovitrum)
Cardinal Health Canada	Stericycle
Dexcom Canada	Sterimax Inc.
Domrex Pharma Inc.	Sun Global Industries Inc.
Eli Lilly Canada Inc.	Takeda Canada Inc.
Embecta Canada Co.	Teva Canada / Novopharm
EMD-Serono Canada Inc.	UCB Canada Inc.
Ferring Inc.	Valeo Pharma Inc
GlaxoSmithKline Inc.	Wholesale Medical Network Inc
Grey Wolf Animal Health Inc.	Xediton Pharmaceuticals Inc.
HTL-Strefa Inc.	Ypsomed Canada Inc.
Intervet Canada Corp Merck Animal Health	Zoetis Canada
Ipsen Biopharmaceuticals Canada Inc	
Janssen Inc.	
Leo Pharma Inc.	

Appendix 3: Provincial Collection Sites

Alberton Pharmacy	Murphy's Stratford Pharmacy
Bioscript Pharmacy	Murphy's Tyne Valley Pharmacy
Bob's Pharmacy	Murphy's Wellington Pharmacy
Hunter River Pharmacy	Murphy's West Royalty Pharmacy
Lawtons #2557	O'Leary Pharmacy
Latons #372	Pharmasave #823
Lawtons #826	Sentrex Pharmacy PEI
Lawtons #880	Sherwood Drug Mart
Lawtons #882	Shoppers Drug Mart #100
Loblaw Pharmacy #314	Shoppers Drug Mart #101
Loblaw Pharmacy #376	Shoppers Drug Mart #102
Loblaw Pharmacy #386	Shoppers Drug Mart #105
Loblaw Pharmacy #388	Shoppers Drug Mart #2029
Main Street Pharmasave	Sobeys #621
McKenna's Pharmachoice	Sobeys #628
Montague Pharmasave	Sobeys #721
Murphy's Central Street Pharmacy	Sobeys #868
Murphy's Cornwall	Sobeys #870
Murphy's East Royalty Pharmacy	Souris Remedy's Rx
Murphy's Kensington Pharmacy	South Shore Pharmacy
Murphy's Kinlock Pharmacy	The Medicine Shoppe #187
Murphy's Morell Pharmacy	The Medicine Shoppe #232
Murphy's Parkdale Pharmacy	The Medicine Shoppe #327
Murphy's Queen Street Pharmacy	Walmart #3162
Murphy's Rustico Pharmacy	Walmart #3644
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