

2025 - 2030 Program Plan

Ontario Medications Return Program and Ontario Sharps Return Program



June 16, 2025

Table of Contents

Glossary and Abbreviated Terms	3
Section 1: Executive Summary.....	5
Section 2: Introduction	5
Section 3: Program Products.....	6
3.1 Pharmaceutical Category.....	6
3.2 Sharps Category.....	7
3.3. Orphan and Free-Rider Products	8
Section 4: Program Design	8
4.1 Collection System.....	8
4.2 Specific Instruction for OMRP.....	9
4.3 Specific Instruction for OSCP.....	9
4.4 Transportation Requirements	10
4.5 Processing Requirements.....	10
4.6 Chain of Custody	10
Section 5: Program Performance	11
5.1 Accessibility.....	11
5.2 Collection	11
Section 6: Promotion and Education	11
6.1 Communication Methods.....	11
6.2 Partnerships	12
Section 7: Funding Structure.....	12
Section 8: Annual Reporting.....	12
Appendix A: HPSA OMRP Members.....	14
Appendix B: HPSA OSCP Members	17

Glossary and Abbreviated Terms

Collection Locations	Community pharmacies registered with HPSA to collect unwanted Pharmaceuticals and used Medical Sharps returned by the public.
Member	A producer who is a member of HPSA.
Medical Sharps	<i>Ont. Reg. 298/12</i> - "A needle, safety engineered needle, lancet or other similar instrument that is designed to puncture the skin of individuals or companion animals for medical purposes and that is sold to consumers in Ontario, whether it is sold by the producer of the sharp or by any another person, and includes anything affixed to the sharp, including a syringe."
OMRP	Ontario Medications Return Program
OSCP	Ontario Sharps Collection Program
Pharmaceuticals	Pharmaceuticals include prescription drugs, non-prescription drugs, and natural health products. <i>Ont. Reg. 298/12</i> – "A drug within the meaning of section 2 of the <i>Food and Drug Act</i> (Canada) that is sold to consumers in Ontario, whether it is sold by the producer of the pharmaceutical or by another person and includes a natural health product within the meaning of the <i>Natural Health Products Regulations</i> made under that Act."

Producer

The producer of a pharmaceutical or sharp is:

- (a) the manufacturer of the pharmaceutical or sharp, if it is sold to consumers in Ontario under a brand that the manufacturer owns, licenses or otherwise has rights to;
- (b) if there is no person described in clause (a), the owner or licensee of the brand or the person who otherwise has rights to the brand under which the pharmaceutical or sharp is sold to consumers in Ontario;
- (c) if there is no person described in clause (a) or (b), the importer of the pharmaceutical or sharp into Ontario; or

if there is no person described in clause (a), (b), or (c), the first person who sells the pharmaceutical or sharp to another person in Ontario.

Regulation

Ontario Regulation 298/12

Collection of Pharmaceuticals and Sharps – Responsibilities of Producers Environmental Protection Act

Section 1: Executive Summary

The Health Products Stewardship Association (HPSA) is a non-profit producer responsibility organization established by trade associations representing manufacturers in response to provincial stewardship regulations. HPSA develops and administers Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs for pharmaceutical products and medical sharps across Canada on behalf of its members.

Since 2013, HPSA has operated the Ontario Medications Return Program and the Ontario Sharps Collection Program, providing a collective compliance strategy for stewards under Regulation 298/12 (“the Regulation”). This includes ensuring the availability of collection sites across Ontario and the safe, compliant, and environmentally responsible handling, transportation, and disposal of unused and/or expired consumer health products.

This five-year plan is submitted by HPSA, acting as the Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) appointed by producers of obligated pharmaceuticals and medical sharps sold in Ontario. It is submitted to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks in accordance with Regulation 298/12, issued under Ontario’s *Environmental Protection Act*, and covers the period through to December 31, 2030.

Section 2: Introduction

Health Products Stewardship Association (HPSA) is a producer responsibility organization (PRO) that has been administering the Ontario Medications Return Program (OMRP) and the Ontario Sharps Collection Program (OSCP) in compliance with Regulation 298/12 (the Regulation) since 2013. This plan is submitted on behalf of producer members obligated for pharmaceuticals and producer members obligated for medical sharps, all of whom have appointed HPSA as their PRO in Ontario (see [Appendix A](#) for a list of OMRP and [Appendix B](#) for OSCP members).

Since 2013, HPSA has collected and ensured the safe disposal of pharmaceuticals and sharps in Ontario. HPSA will continue to provide all Ontario residents with reasonable access to collection location on a province-wide basis and ensuring, in alignment with the regulatory requirement, that 90% of accredited retail pharmacies locations are participating collection locations. Under this plan, HPSA will remain responsible for strategic planning, program management, and financial oversight, including the contracting of services to support day-to-day program operations.

Section 3: Program Products

3.1 Pharmaceutical Category

Definition

Section 1 (1) of the Regulation defines “pharmaceutical” as “a drug within the meaning of Section 2 of the Food and Drugs Act (Canada) and includes a natural health product within the meaning of the Natural Health Products Regulations made under that Act.

Designated Material

For the purpose of this plan, pharmaceuticals covered include:

- Prescription drugs with a DIN prescribed by a healthcare professional
- Non-prescription drugs with a DIN or NN, available without prescription
- Natural health products with a NPN or DIN HM, used for maintaining or restoring health

Excluded Material

Products not accepted under this plan include:

- Contact lens disinfectant
- Anti-dandruff products including shampoo
- Anti-perspirant
- Sunburn protectant
- Mouthwash
- Fluoridated toothpaste
- Lozenges for cough, sore throat, or halitosis
- Topical substances that do not contain antibiotics or anti-fungal agents
- Radiopharmaceuticals within the meaning of Part C of the Food and Drug Regulations made under the Food and Drugs Act (Canada)
- Pharmaceuticals sold or distributed in industrial, commercial and institutional (“IC&I”) settings, including:
 - Products used in the provision of care by a professional
 - Products used for remuneration particularly in public or private health establishments (e.g. hospitals, long-term diseases health centers)
 - Products used in a private professional practice

3.2 Sharps Category

Definition

Section 1 (1) of the Regulation defines a “sharp” as “a needle, safety engineered needle, lancet or other similar instrument that is designed to puncture the skin of individuals or companion animals for medical purposes and that is sold to consumers in Ontario, whether it is sold by the producer of the sharp or by any other person, and includes anything affixed to the sharp, including a syringe”.

Designated Material

Examples of products that are included in the sharps category are (list not exhaustive):

- Infusion sets and infusion pods
- Lancets
- Pen tips/needles
- Needles
- Syringes
- Prefilled cartridges
- Pen injectors and autoinjectors
- Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) Devices

Excluded Material

Products not accepted under this plan include:

- Biomedical waste other than sharps
- Expired stock
- Vial/ampoules
- Sharps sold or distributed in industrial, commercial and institutional (“IC&I”) settings, including:
 - Products used in the provision of care by a professional including sharp used for immunizations and/or administered by a health care practitioner
 - Sharps used for remuneration particularly in public or private health establishments (e.g. hospitals, long-term diseases health centers)
 - Sharps used in a private professional practice.

3.3. Orphan and Free-Rider Products

Both the OMRP and OSCP will accept products that are considered orphan or free-rider products. Orphan products are those produced by a manufacturer that either no longer exists or no longer produces products designated under the Regulation that may still be returned. Free-rider products refer to obligated products that are designated under the Regulation but are produced, imported, or distributed by a producer that is not a registered member of HPSA in Ontario.

Section 4: Program Design

4.1 Collection System

Collection locations for the OMRP and OSCP are retail community pharmacies¹ with a public-facing dispensary. Pharmacies are a logical and safe system for the public to return unwanted pharmaceuticals and used medical sharps. Many have extended hours, offering a convenient place for consumer disposal year-round. Every collection location has an agreement with HPSA regarding the collection and storage of unused and expired products.

Collection locations must have a valid provincial license issued by the College of Pharmacists of Ontario. Proof of a valid commercial waste agreement must be provided to demonstrate that the pharmacy has a separate agreement to manage pharmacy generated waste that falls outside the scope of HPSA's program including, but not limited to, unserviceable stock and sharps generated from the administration of vaccinations to consumers at the pharmacy. Participating pharmacies must accept products from consumers during regular business hours at no cost, and display and increase public awareness through promotional and educational HPSA program materials. A licensed pharmacist or pharmacy technician must be present when a consumer drops off unwanted products. Unwanted pharmaceuticals or used medical sharps from hospitals, institutions, doctor's offices or pharmacy operations are not accepted. Medical sharps and their collection containers must be kept separated from waste pharmaceuticals.

¹ If a location would like to offer collection of pharmaceuticals under the OMRP or medical sharps return under the OSCP – and it is not a retail pharmacy – then the location must be approved by HPSA and meet collection location standards before collection of any unwanted pharmaceuticals or used medical sharps can begin.

4.2 Specific Instruction for OMRP

Collection locations are provided with medication return containers at no cost, which must be placed behind the dispensary counter. These containers are equipped with a reusable one-way entry lid that prevents item retrieval, helping to reduce the risk of misuse and accidental poisoning. There is no limit to the quantity of pharmaceuticals a consumer can return. All returned pharmaceuticals must be placed directly into the collection container located in the dispensary area. Product packaging should be recycled where appropriate recycling facilities are available. The only exceptions are liquid medications, gels, and powders, which may be placed in their original vials directly into the medication return container.

4.3 Specific Instruction for OSCP

Biomedical Sharps

Biomedical sharps are products intended for use by consumers to puncture the skin for medical purposes. To be accepted at collection locations, used biomedical sharps must be placed in an approved sharps container.

Cytotoxic Sharps

Some sharps are used to inject drugs with chemotherapeutic properties and are considered more hazardous than standard biomedical sharps. These sharps are classified as cytotoxic (genotoxic) waste. Cytotoxic sharps must be placed in an approved sharps container affixed with a cytotoxic symbol label.

Collection and Handling Procedures

Post-consumer medical sharps must be returned in approved hard-shell sharps containers, labeled with the universal biohazard symbol. Collection locations are supplied with HPSA-labeled sharps containers at no cost. Pharmacists or pharmacy technicians are responsible for distributing these containers—free of charge—to any member of the public upon request.

Sharps containers used for cytotoxic drugs must include a cytotoxic label, also provided by HPSA at no cost to the collection location.

Upon receiving returned containers, pharmacists must ensure that the lids are securely locked and that the containers are placed into an overpack box. Once the overpack box

reaches capacity, it will be collected during the pharmacy's next scheduled pickup by the HPSA-contracted waste management service provider.

4.4 Transportation Requirements

As per the HPSA contractor agreement with service providers, all conditions of federal, provincial, and/or local rules and regulations and associated regulations must be adhered to by the waste management service provider(s) when transporting pharmaceuticals and medical sharps waste collected under the HPSA programs.

4.5 Processing Requirements

OMRP

HPSA partners exclusively with waste management service providers that have a demonstrated track record of using established, approved, and verifiable procedures for the final treatment of unused or expired pharmaceuticals. These service providers must hold a valid Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) issued by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) for the processing of 312P biomedical waste via incineration. Additionally, all service providers must be licensed dealers for post-consumer returns in accordance with Health Canada's requirements. Pharmaceutical waste collected through OMRP must be treated by high-temperature incineration to ensure complete destruction.

OSCP

HPSA works only with waste management providers that possess a valid ECA from the Ontario MECP authorizing the treatment of 312P biomedical waste through either high-pressure steam sterilization (e.g., autoclaving) or high-temperature incineration.

Biomedical sharps must be treated using either steam sterilization or incineration, depending on the type and level of contamination. Cytotoxic medical sharps require high-temperature incineration, and any resulting bottom ash must be disposed of in an approved landfill permitted to receive such waste. For non-infectious sharps waste that has been rendered safe via steam sterilization, when available, the preferred post-treatment method is processing at a waste-to-energy facility licensed to handle municipal solid waste.

4.6 Chain of Custody

HPSA's internal operational procedures includes internal audits to ensure proper tracking mechanisms. A chain of custody documentation is in place from the point of collection to

final destruction – including the appropriate certificates of destruction. This information is verified through a non-financial assurance process conducted by a licensed public accountant.

Section 5: Program Performance

5.1 Accessibility

For both OMRP and OSCP, a key performance metric for HPSA's programs is to ensure that 90% of retail pharmacies in Ontario are registered as collection locations, with at least one site established in every local municipality across the province.

5.2 Collection

HPSA will report on the weight of used medical sharps and unwanted and/or expired pharmaceuticals collected and disposed of in kilograms annually.

Section 6: Promotion and Education

HPSA's communication campaign objectives will educate Ontarians about the safe disposal of unwanted pharmaceuticals and used medical sharps, promoting both environmental sustainability and public health protection.

6.1 Communication Methods

HPSA will use various communication tactics and approaches to raise awareness of proper disposal techniques of unwanted pharmaceuticals and used medical sharps.

Consumer Education:

- HPSA will continue to develop and implement ongoing social media content to educate Ontario residents on the safe disposal of their unwanted medications and used medical sharps. This content will include educational materials, targeted campaigns, and prompts to use the Drop-Off Geolocator map available on the website. This map serves as a focal point in the search of collection locations and is always up to date.
- HPSA will continue to expand its repository of educational materials in a variety of formats—including step-by-step infographics and instructional videos—designed to support public awareness and consumer education. These resources are available on our website and collection location portal.

- HPSA will also continue to strategize and execute targeted campaigns leveraging data-driven content to secure earned media and enhance organic media coverage.

6.2 Partnerships

The programs will continue to partner with organizations interested in collaborating to promote health and safety. Prospective partners include:

- Retailers – Pharmacy banners and community pharmacies serving as registrant collection locations.
- Producer Responsibility Organizations – Leveraging opportunities to combine communication efforts with other existing stewardship program.
- Municipal Partnerships – HPSA will seek opportunities to collaborate with local governments by establishing website linkages from municipal sites to the HPSA website, including program information on recycling and disposal-specific pages, and making program materials available through local government channels.
- Industry-Related Organizations – Partnerships may include Ontario Pharmacists, Drug Free Kids Canada, Circular Materials and Diabetes Canada to increase the knowledge of pharmaceuticals and medical sharps disposal within a targeted audience.

Section 7: Funding Structure

Both OMRP and OSCP are fully funded by HPSA members selling pharmaceuticals and medical sharps in Ontario. Funding is calculated using a formula based on market share approved by the HPSA board of directors. There is no subsidization of program costs from other provincial programs. HPSA operates a “return to retail” approach whereby the public returns unwanted pharmaceuticals and used medical sharps to pharmacies. There is no fee charged to the consumer on pharmaceuticals or medical sharps in Ontario.

Section 8: Annual Reporting

As per Article 9 of the Regulation, an annual report on the OMRP and OSCP will be prepared by HPSA on behalf of its members on or before April 1 of every year. The following information shall be included:

- The number of collection locations and the location of each of the collection locations at which collection of the designated material of the producer was provided for during the previous calendar year and a description of any changes that occurred with respect to the number and location of collection locations from the previous calendar year.
- The total weight of all of the following that was collected at the collection locations during the previous calendar year:
 - o pharmaceuticals
 - o pharmaceutical containers
 - o sharps
 - o sharps containers
- A description of how the designated material of the producer collected at collection locations was handled and how it was recycled or disposed of during the previous calendar year.
- A description of actions taken by the producer during the previous calendar year, their effectiveness and outcomes achieved.
- A description of any actions taken by the producer during the previous calendar year that exceeded the actions required, in order to provide for the collection of the designated material of the producer.
- A description of any actions taken by the producer during the previous calendar year that exceeded the actions required with respect to educational and public awareness activities in order to promote to consumers the collection locations and the availability of collection.
- The name of each producer on whose behalf the report is prepared.
- The report shall include an opinion from a licensed public accountant.

The Annual Report will be posted on HPSA's website and available publicly for at least 3 years.

Appendix A: HPSA OMRP Members

3M Healthcare Canada Company Limited
AA Pharma Inc.
AbbVie Corporation
Accel Pharma Inc
Accord Healthcare
Advanced Orthomolecular Research (AOR)
Advantage Solutions
Alcon Canada Inc.
Amgen Canada Inc.
Amway Canada Corporation
Apotex Inc.
Aralez Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc.
Arcutis Biotherapeutics Inc.
Aspen Pharmacare Canada Inc
Astellas Pharma Canada Inc.
AstraZeneca Canada Inc.
Atrium Innovations Inc
Auro Pharma Inc
Aventix Animal Health
Avir Pharma
Bausch + Lomb Corporation
Bausch Health, Canada Inc.
Baxter Canada
Bayer Inc.
BGP Pharma (Mylan)
Bimeda-MTC Animal Health Inc.
Biocon Biologics Canada, Inc.
Bioforce Canada Inc.
BioGaia Probiotics Canada Inc.
Biogen Canada Inc
Biomed Pharma
BioSyent Pharma Inc.
Blistex Corporation
Body Plus Nutritional Products Inc.
Boehringer Ingelheim Canada - Animal Health
Canada Inc.
Boehringer Ingelheim Canada Ltd.
Boiron Canada
Bristol-Myers Squibb
Canadian Custom Packaging Company
Can-Vet Animal Health Supplies Ltd.
Celex Laboratories Inc.
Ceva Animal Health Inc.
Champion Alstoe Animal Health Inc.
Church & Dwight Canada
Cipher Pharmaceuticals Inc.
Clorox Company of Canada Ltd.
Costco Wholesale Canada
D Drops Company
Dechra Veterinary Products Inc.
Dr. Reddy's Laboratories
Duchesnay
Eisai
Elanco Canada Limited
Eli Lilly Canada Inc.
EXZELL PHARMA IN
Ferring Inc.
Fresenius Kabi Canada Ltd.
Galderma Canada Inc.
Generic Medical Partners Inc.
Gilead Sciences Canada Inc.
GlaxoSmithKline Inc.
Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc.
GNC Canada Holdings, LLC
Grey Wolf Animal Health Inc.
Groupe Jean Coutu (PJC) Inc.
Haleon
Health First Network Association Inc.
Herbalife of Canada
HLS Therapeutics
Horopito Inc.
HPI Health Products/Lakota

Imperial Tobacco Canada Limited
Incyte Biosciences Canada
Indivior Canada
Ipsen Biopharmaceuticals Canada Inc
Jamieson Laboratories
Jamp Pharma Corporation
Janssen Inc.
Kenvue Canada Inc.
Laboratoire Riva
Laboratoire Trianon
Laboratoires Atlas Inc.
Laboratoires Confab Inc.
Leadiant Biosciences Inc.
Leo Pharma Inc.
Les Laboratoires Nicar Inc.
Life Science Nutritionals Inc.
Loblaw Companies Ltd.
Lundbeck Canada Inc.
Lupin Pharma Canada Ltd.
Mannatech Incorporated
Mantra Pharma Inc.
Marcan Pharmaceuticals Inc.
McCaughey Consumer Products Management Inc.
McKesson Canada
Mead Johnson Nutrition (Canada) Co.
Medexus Pharmaceuticals Inc.
Medisca Pharmaceutique Inc.
Merck Canada Inc.
Mint Pharmaceuticals Inc
Mylan Pharmaceuticals ULC
Natco Pharma Canada Inc.
Natural Factors Nutritional Products Ltd.
Nature's Sunshine Products of Canada Ltd.
Nestle Canada Inc
Nestle Purina PetCare Canada
New Chapter Canada Inc.
New Nordic Inc.
Nora Pharma
Novartis Pharmaceutical Canada Inc.
Novo Nordisk
Odan Laboratories Ltd.
Omega Alpha Pharmaceuticals Inc.
OMEGA LABORATORIES CANADA
Organika Health Products Inc.
Organon Canada Inc
Otsuka Canada Pharmaceuticals Inc.
Paladin Pharma Inc.
Partner Animal Health
Pascoe Canada Inc
Pattison Food Group Ltd.
Pfizer Canada Inc.
Pharmasave Drugs Ltd
Pharmascience Inc.
Platinum Naturals Ltd
Procter & Gamble Inc.
Purdue Pharma
Puresource Corp
RB Health Canada Inc.
Rexall Pharmacy Group Ltd.
Roche Canada Ltd. – Hoffmann
Sandoz Canada
Sanis Health Inc.
Sanofi Consumer Health
Sanofi-Aventis Canada Inc.
Seaford Pharmaceuticals
Servier Canada Inc.
Shaklee Canada Inc.
Shoppers Drug Mart Inc.
Sivem Pharmaceuticals ULC
Smith & Nephew 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
Vetoquinol N.-A. Inc.
Virbac Corporation

Vita Health Products Inc.
Wal-Mart Canada Corp
WellSpring Pharmaceutical Canada Corp.
Westcoast Naturals
WN Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
Xediton Pharmaceuticals Inc.
Zoetis Canada

Appendix B: HPSA OSCP Members

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