



American College of
Emergency Physicians®

ADVANCING EMERGENCY CARE 

POLICY STATEMENT

Approved June 2016

Drug “Take-back” Programs

Originally approved
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The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) believes that development and implementation of drug take-back programs for the safe disposal of unused controlled substances are an essential part of an effective approach to reducing the abuse of controlled substances. Further, ACEP believes that these programs should exist at no cost to patients and that there should be no legal sanctions against those who turn in unused controlled substances.

ACEP supports current legislation that endorses drug take-back programs, including the Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act of 2010 (“Disposal Act”) and relevant US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) regulations, such as registration of authorized collectors (i.e., DEA-regulated drug take-back sites) and the use of DEA Form 41 to record destruction.