Undo the Chemical Brew in the Great Lakes

A Community Action Partnership Project with Earth Force and Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant Program

Funded through a grant from U.S. EPA
Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

Adapted from Dr. Sterling Hayden’s presentation
Produced by the Regional Excess Medication Disposal Service Partnership, RxMEDS
How Medicines Help:

• Prevent illness
• Reduce symptoms
• End a disease
How Medicines Hurt:

- Side effects
- Drug interactions
- Allergic reactions
Sometimes patients don't take all of their medicine.

When this happens, it's important to dispose of it safely.
Proper Medication Disposal

Where do you think medicine should go when an adult needs to get rid of it?
Proper Medicine Disposal

• Medicine should never be flushed down the toilet!
Community Collections are Best

• Have your parents or guardians see if they can drop off unwanted meds:
  – At a pharmacy or police station
  – At a collection event
  – Mailback programs
Proper Medicine Disposal

- Adults should only throw medicine in the trash after following certain rules.
  - Adults can mix it with kitty litter or coffee grounds.
  - Adults should remove label from the bottle.
Why can't medicine be flushed down the toilet?

- Medicine is not completely filtered out by water treatment plants.
- Water from the toilet and sink can end up in rivers, lakes, and oceans.
- Fish, frogs and other animals in the water can be harmed by the medicine.
LIFE OF A MEDICINE
TIME FOR

JEOPARDY

Jeopardy Game adapted from a presentation by:

Angie Freesmeier and Carrie Handing
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pharmacy and Pharmacists</th>
<th>Proper medicine disposal</th>
<th>Medicine in the waters</th>
<th>Ecosystems</th>
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Prevent illness, help symptoms or end a disease.
What are ways medicines can help people?
Something gross that medicine can be put in so that people or animals won’t get to the medicine
What is kitty litter or coffee grounds?
Because the medicine expiration date has passed
What are reasons adults get rid of their medicine?
Someone you ask when you can’t remember how to dispose of medicine
Who is a pharmacist?
These are not filtered by the wastewater treatment plant after getting them from your toilet.
What are medicines?
Where toilet water ends up after it goes through the water treatment plant
What are lakes, rivers, and oceans?
These can be harmed by medicine in the water.
What are fish and frogs?
P2D2 Program
Examples of Projects Developed by Students

• PowerPoint Presentation

• Medicine Collection Dropbox

• Billboards and Exhibits

• Theme song that was played on the radio
Dropboxes Designed by Students
Located at a Police Station
Exhibits
Billboards

Got Old Meds?
Drop off your expired or unused medications at the following locations:
- Eastland Pharmacy at OSF St. Joseph Medical Center
- Merle Pharmacy at Bronze
- Ryan Pharmacy
- Doc's Drugs, Lellay

www.P2D2program.org
Songs

“Cleaner Water—For You for Me”
Pharmaceuticals In Our Water!

By: Karisly Ambrose
Brittany Kolesar
Amanda McBride

Sample Student PowerPoint Presentation, Pontiac High School, Illinois
Facts

• In Phoenix, Arizona they have found pharmaceuticals in their drinking water!!
• Which is a huge problem for them!
• And us....
• NOW, they have realized that the pharmaceuticals might end up in our drinking water!
Along with pharmaceuticals, personal care products are also showing up in the water.
OH SNAP!

• Farm animals are also a source of pharmaceuticals
  – ingestion of hormones
  – antibiotics
  – veterinary medicines

• Manure containing pharmaceuticals is spread on land and can then wash off into surface water and even percolate into groundwater.
WHY ARE THERE DRUGS IN OUR WATER BODIES?

Drugs enter the environment in 2 ways:

– Prescription medicines and supplements that are unwanted are difficult to remove through wastewater treatment.

– Unwanted drugs are improperly disposed of in the trash or toilet.
• Over 80% of waterways tested in the U.S. show traces of common medications such as acetaminophen, hormones, blood pressure medicine, codeine, and antibiotics.
• We need your help....
• It is not just everyone else who this is affecting.
  – YOU are drinking.
  – YOUR children are drinking.
  – We can prevent this......right here right now!
• Help us start The Pharmaceutical Reclamacion Program.
http://og.arizona.edu/AZWATER/awr/july00/feature1.htm
www.google.com

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME!!