



MICHIGAN PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 11, 2017

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Michigan Pharmacists Association to Hold Eighth Annual Medication Disposal Event at the Capitol

- WHO:** Michigan Pharmacists Association
- WHAT:** Eighth Annual Medication Disposal Event at the Capitol
- WHEN:** Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Press conference will begin at 11 a.m.
- WHERE:** Michigan State Capitol, south lawn, Lansing

WHY: 2015 saw the most deaths as a result of opioid overdose than any other year on record, killing more than 33,000 people nationwide. Of those deaths, Michigan experienced the loss of 1,980 individuals as a result of opioid overdoses in 2015, with 91 Americans dying every day as a result of an overdose. Many people obtain these opioid medications from family members, friends or out of household medicine cabinets and are not fully aware of proper medication disposal practices. Michigan Pharmacists Association's (MPA) medication disposal event provides an opportunity for the general public to learn about appropriate disposal of medications. This event also provides an opportunity for the public to properly dispose of any unwanted, unused or expired medications, including narcotics and controlled substances. Medications can be dropped off in the disposal tent on the south lawn, or curbside drop-off will be available at S. Capitol Ave. between Michigan Ave. and Allegan St.

At the 2016 medication disposal event, MPA, in cooperation with the city of Wyoming, collected nearly 600 pounds of unused and expired medications. Of those 600 pounds, 20 were of controlled substances. All medications collected had an estimated value of more than \$1 million. Since MPA began the medication disposal event seven years ago, a total of 1.9 tons of pharmaceuticals have been collected and properly disposed of by the city of Wyoming, a total value of more than \$5 million.

The press conference will focus on the work of Michigan's Prescription Drug and Abuse Commission to curb the epidemic, actions that all healthcare providers, including pharmacists, can take to combat the rising costs and how to educate the public and patients about properly disposing of medications to keep them off the streets and out of our environment. For more information, visit www.MichiganPharmacists.org/MedicationDisposal.

Speakers are:

- Brian Calley, lieutenant Governor, state of Michigan
- Eden V. Wells, M.D., M.P.H., chief medical executive, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
- Jim Lile, Pharm.D., president, Michigan Pharmacists Association
- Larry Wagenknecht, pharmacist, chief executive officer, Michigan Pharmacists Association
- Jack Schinderle, chief, Office of Environmental Assistance, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

Michigan Pharmacists Association strives to serve members by providing support, advocacy and resources that ultimately improve patient care, safety, health and the practice of pharmacy. For more information, visit www.MichiganPharmacists.org.

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