Reminder for “Charlie’s Law”

“Charlie’s Law” Requires Pharmacies to Have a Method of Drug Disposal Available for Patients Effective April 20, 2020

Beginning on April 20, 2020, the law takes effect. This law will require pharmacy practice sites to provide patients with written information advising patients of the risks of not properly disposing unused or expired medications and used syringes.

If this sounds familiar, that’s because pursuant to two previous laws, pharmacies are already required to provide a notice about drug take-back programs where patients may safely dispose of CDS prescription medication and methods of safe syringe disposal if they purchase syringes. If you need written materials, they can be downloaded at the following links:

CDS Disposal Materials: https://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/meddrop/Pages/Media.aspx


In addition to the previous laws, Charlie’s Law requires the following: A Disposal Method for Unwanted of Unused Medications in all pharmacies:
Pharmacies must make available on-site at least **one or more** of the following options:

a. Offer for purchase or at no cost to the patient (pharmacy’s choice) at least one consumer method to dispose of unwanted or expired prescription drugs, including, but not limited to over-the-counter at-home or site-of-use solutions;

b. Secured medication collection kiosks or boxes that are compliant with DEA requirements.

Pharmacies should plan to comply with this law as soon as practicable. In cases of non-compliance, pharmacies may be subject to Board of Pharmacy violations, and PBM Audit and Recapture.