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RGH taking back unused prescriptions in new program

WHAM

1-2 minutes

Rochester, N.Y. (WHAM) - With the dramatic increase in prescription drug abuse over the last five years, people are concerned about how to dispose of prescription medication.

Rochester General Hospital announced Wednesday it is one of five hospitals in New York to participate in a new drug take-back program.

Keeping the drugs around can risk theft or abuse, while throwing them in the garbage or flushing it down the toilet can pollute the ground and water supply. [According to the CDC](#), nearly 70 percent of people who begin abusing prescription drugs get them from a family member or friend.

As of last week, the hospital began accepting drugs at a secure collection station. The program is a six-month test that runs through July.

No questions will be asked of the people dropping off the drugs. Anyone can drop them off at the secure kiosk or mail them in using pre-paid mail-back envelopes.

The Product Stewardship Institute (PSI) and the New York Product Stewardship Council (NYPSC) are running the program.