The Clinical Center’s Pharmacy does not take back medications.

Some medicines may be harmful or fatal if taken by accident or misused. If you have medication that you no longer need, here are ways that you can dispose of it:

**Medicine Take Back Programs or DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency) authorized collectors:**
Medicine take-back programs are a good way to safely dispose of most types of unneeded medicines. The DEA sponsors National Prescription Drug Take-Back events where authorized collectors set up collection boxes or mail-back programs in local communities. If there are no take back programs in your area and no disposal instructions on your medication label, go to: [FDA: Disposal of Unused Medicines: What You Should Know](https://go.usa.gov/xX75V)

**Trash Disposal:**
Before disposing of medicine in the trash:

1. Scratch out all personal information on the prescription label of your empty pill bottle or medicine packaging to make it unreadable, remove the medication, then dispose of the empty container.
2. Place the medicine in a container such as a zip top plastic bag.
3. Mix the medicine with coffee grounds, cat litter, or another undesirable substance to discourage use.

_Do not flush expired or unwanted prescription and over-the-counter drugs down the toilet, unless patient information instructs you to do so._

This information is prepared specifically for persons taking part in clinical research at the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center and may not apply to patients elsewhere. If you have questions about the information presented here, talk to a member of your health care team.

Products/resources named serve as examples and do not imply endorsement by NIH. The fact that a certain product/resource is not named does not imply that such product/resource is unsatisfactory.

**National Institutes of Health Clinical Center**
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*Questions about the Clinical Center?*