



**South Dakota
Board of Pharmacy**

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WHAT: Board Policy Statement # 25-7-22

WHY: POLICY STATEMENT ON ABANDONED PRESCRIPTIONS

Introduction/Information

The Board recognizes that in certain instances facilities have patient medications in their possession that are unable to be returned to the ultimate user. According to the DEA, a controlled substance prescription is considered “abandoned” when the prescription has been left at a practitioner’s registered location and the prescription cannot be returned to the ultimate user. The DEA has highlighted their limited authority regarding who may deliver controlled substances for the purpose of disposal.

DEA Guidance Document: Disposal of Controlled Substances Prescription Medications (Schedule II-V) Abandoned by Patients and/or Visitors at the Locations of DEA -Registered Practitioners [DEA-DC-073]

As noted in the guidance document, the DEA has no authority to expand on the types of individuals and entities lawfully permitted to dispose of controlled substances. Therefore, the following is intended to provide direction for disposal of abandoned medications.

Guidelines

For DEA registered collectors: dispose of patient labeled medications that are deemed abandoned into the take back receptable onsite.

- Documentation of disposal shall be made in the patient record.

For DEA registered facilities that are not collectors: abandoned medications shall be disposed at the specific facility utilizing policy and procedure already in place for proper wasting/destruction of medications.

- Documentation of disposal shall be recorded in the patient record.

BOARD DRAFT APPROVAL: July 22, 2025