Storage, Disposal and recycling practices for unused residential and waste medications

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Abstract:
Parallel to development of pharmaceutical industry and produce new drugs and dosage forms, the medication cost increase too. Notice to unused drugs (UD) is recommended. This review article surveys the Published Papers on attitudes and practices to medicine disposal methods as reported by patients and the various medication disposal and destruction systems around the world especially in developed country. Published literature was identified through a systematically search of MEDLINE, ISI Web of Knowledge, Google Scholar and Scopus (from 2001 to 2014, April) using the search terms “unused medicines”, “medicines wastage”, “drug recycling”, and “disposal medication”. Twenty peer-reviewed articles with specified sample sizes were selected. More than half of the patients storing unused and expired medications in their homes, and more than half had flushed them down a toilet. In some country government with knowledge about the impact of pharmaceuticals in the environment were more likely to return medications and UD to their pharmacy. The study indicates that community pharmacies may be an ideal venue to collect and resale these UD. There is a role for patient education of appropriate disposal techniques. Benefits of such a program beyond simply providing affordable medication. Guidelines on safe disposal of unwanted medicines in special community pharmacies are required and an organized method of collecting unused medication needs to be introduced.

Keyword: Storage, Disposal, unused medicines, medicines wastage, drug recycling