

## News Release

**Contact:** Providence media line, 907-212-6083

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# Providence Medical Arts Pharmacy begins medication disposal program

*Meets community need for safe, convenient option for disposal of expired prescriptions*

**ANCHORAGE, Alaska** — A medication collection program for the disposal of personal medications that are expired or no longer needed is now available at the Medical Arts Pharmacy in Providence Alaska Medical Center.

The unit is free for public use and available from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays at the Medical Arts Pharmacy, which is located at 3300 Providence Drive, Suite 101 (B Tower – Entrance #4), in Anchorage.

“We want to encourage the disposal of unused medications in the home that can be a risk for children or misuse by others for whom the drugs were not prescribed,” said Andre Neptune, director of Pharmacy at Providence Alaska Medical Center. “The medication disposal unit will provide for a safe and environmentally sound method for drug disposal, keeping medications out of our landfills and water table.”

The opening of a Medication Collection Program meets a community need. In the past, medication collection was only available during events hosted by local law enforcement agencies. The Providence unit will be available year round.

Not accepted are syringes, hydrogen peroxide, inhalers, aerosol cans and medication from businesses or clinics. Medication can be deposited in the unit in its original container or by emptying medication into a plastic bag.

All medication turn-ins are completely confidential and the deposited medication is sent to a facility where it is incinerated. Providence does not examine the contents of the unit prior to the medication being sent to the incineration facility. Additionally, the unit is kept locked and secure to ensure unauthorized people cannot access the contents.

By providing a Medication Collection Unit, Providence is helping to address a community safety need. Many medications that are used beyond the expiration date lose their effectiveness, and in some cases, can be toxic if used. Even unexpired medications that are at a different dosage amount can also pose a risk if taken in place of a newer prescription.

The Medical Arts Pharmacy serves the community by performing everyday prescription filling needs. Our pharmacists are immunization certified and available to provide Flu and Pneumovax vaccines with no appointment necessary and other vaccines with a prescription. For more information, please call (907) 212-5090.

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**About Providence Alaska Medical Center**

Providence Alaska Medical Center, a nationally recognized trauma center, is part of Providence Health & Services, a not-for-profit network of hospitals, care centers, health plans, physicians, clinics, home health services, affiliated services and educational facilities. For more information about PAMC, visit: [alaska.providence.org](http://alaska.providence.org).