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**OK Poison Center to host National Medication Take-Back Day Event**

OKLAHOMA CITY – Drive Up and Drop Off! Clean out your medicine cabinet and join the Oklahoma Poison Center, Walmart Neighborhood Market and the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics for a mobile medication take-back event.

From 10 am-2 pm on Saturday, October 26th the Oklahoma Poison Control, along with University of Oklahoma Health Sciences College of Pharmacy students, will be collecting unused and unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medications in the parking lot of the Walmart Neighborhood Market located at 7520 E. Reno Avenue in Midwest City and the Cleveland County Health Department located at 424 S. Eastern Avenue in Moore. “We are honored to have the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy’s Oklahoma Poison Center take the initiative on such an important public health need.  Take back events like this help the community better understand the role of pharmacists as medication experts who work to ensure that patients use their medications safely and effectively, including the proper disposal of unwanted medications since it is an important aspect of the medication use process, said Melissa Medina, dean of the college. There is no charge for this event and the public is invited and encouraged to bring their medications for safe disposal.

“Many seniors have changing medical conditions, which often means medications also change, leaving unneeded and unwanted pills cluttering up homes. Keeping old prescriptions around can lead to accidentally taking expired pills, confusing doses, or even risking them falling into the wrong hands,” said Kristie Edelen, managing director for the Oklahoma Poison Center. “We are excited to partner with Walmart Neighborhood Market and the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics to have this take-back event at two convenient locations.

At the conclusion of the event, the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics will collect all medications, weigh them, and deliver them to Covanta Energy in Tulsa, where they will be turned into a form of renewable energy. Pills and patches will be accepted during the medication drive up and drop off event, however, no liquids, inhalers, or syringes will be accepted.

For more information on poison prevention or to access our resources, please visit oklahomapoison.org.

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**Our Commitment**

The Oklahoma Poison Center remains dedicated to providing expert guidance and support to families and communities. For immediate assistance or if you have concerns about a potential poisoning, please contact our Poison Helpline at (800) 222-1222. Together, we can take proactive steps to foster a healthier community. Pharmacists and registered nurses at the Oklahoma Poison Center are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Please do not email the poison center or members of the poison center staff, as poisoning emergencies are not handled through email.

**About Oklahoma Poison Center**

Oklahoma Poison Center is dedicated to providing expert advice and support in cases of poisoning and exposure to harmful substances. Our mission is to prevent poisonings and reduce their impact through education, prevention, and providing emergency treatment recommendations. The Oklahoma Poison Center is a program of the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences College of Pharmacy.

**The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences**

The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences is one of the nation’s few academic health centers with seven health professions colleges — Allied Health, Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Health, and Graduate College. OU Health Sciences serves approximately 4,000 students in more than 70 undergraduate and graduate degree programs on campuses in Oklahoma City and Tulsa and is the academic and research partner of OU Health, the state’s only comprehensive academic healthcare system. OU Health Sciences is ranked 129 out of over 2,849 institutions in funding received from the National Institutes of Health, according to the Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research. For more information, visit ouhsc.edu.