

# C.16

Gressit, Stevan and Jayne Harper  
(2011) Guidelines for the  
Development of the Drug Disposal  
Task Force



[a] The Task Force shall complete their first report to the Commissioner of Public Safety and Attorney General by January 31, 2012. This report will include the following:

[1] Identification of the barriers to an effective, affordable, and environmentally safe plan for sustaining drug disposal methods for individual households and long term care facilities and should include method(s) for in-state disposal of medications previously sent out-of-state due to DEP regulatory interpretations. Additionally, the Task Force will address any state structural issues regarding prescription drug abuse, disposal, or policy leading to waste reduction.

[2] Suggested revisions of DHHS Licensing and Regulatory Affairs regulations related to disposal of drugs, including controlled drugs, to allow adherence to the above measure.

[3] Recommendations to comment on the feasibility of creating a return program for unused sealed drugs from hospital pharmacies and long term care facilities for use within MaineCare.

[4] Provide a description of various educational programs for drug disposal for prescribers and the public.

[5] Identification of clinical guidelines useful for state clinicians.

[6] Clearly defined action plan allowing for in-state disposal subsequent to the termination of DEA-sponsored collection and disposal activities in Maine.

[i] Proposed changes to Maine law regarding DEP will be recommended for emergency passage during this legislative session.

[7] The workgroup unanimously requests the Health and Human Services Committee to forward this recommendation with approval to the Commissioner of Public Safety.

[i]The intent of this recommendation is to avoid any fiscal note or cost to the state.

[b] Task Force appointments by the Commissioner of Public Safety shall include at least 2 representatives from pharmacy colleges, at least 1 representative from

local law enforcement agencies, at least 1 representative from Healthy Maine Partnerships, at least 1 representative from long-term care/hospice agencies, at least 1 representative from area council of governments, at least 1 prescriber of opioids, and at least 1 other representative from non-governmental organizations. Including the chairperson, there will be at least nine members serving the Task Force.

[c] Task Force appointments will last three years. Members may be reappointed for additional terms.

[d] The Task Force will adopt such rules as needed to perform its obligations.

[e] Meeting space and communication support will be provided to the Task Force by pharmacy colleges in Maine (Husson University and University of New England).

[f] The Task Force shall be charged with reporting meeting minutes to the Commissioner on a quarterly basis.

[g] The Task Force is authorized to address any and all forms of drug abuse, most specifically prescription drug abuse.

[h] The Task Force is authorized to issue notices, review papers, research results, or other information deemed necessary in addressing prescription drug abuse and disposal.

[i] The Task Force is permitted to provide recognition of programs for drug disposal that meet all regulatory or best practice standards.