



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lewis County General Hospital, NY Launches Drug Take-Back Collection Kiosk

First hospital in the county to collect controlled substances

New York— Today, [Lewis County General Hospital](#) joined four pharmacies in New York's Oneida and Lewis counties in collecting leftover household pharmaceuticals as a part of a drug take-back pilot program. Designed and implemented by the Product Stewardship Institute and the New York Product Stewardship Council, the program offers residents convenient, ongoing disposal options for their outdated or otherwise unwanted medications – a key part of a comprehensive strategy to reduce the [public health](#) and [environmental impacts](#) of leftover drugs.

“Every week, there are overdoses and accidental poisonings caused by leftover prescription drugs found in residents’ homes,” said Diane Loftus, director of pharmacy at Lewis County General Hospital. “In addition, we often receive phone calls from family members who have lost loved ones and are looking for a way to dispose of medications that are no longer needed. We’re proud to provide a much-needed solution for county residents to safely and easily remove leftover drugs from their medicine cabinets.”

Funded through a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture, the Lewis/Oneida County pilot program uses pharmacy-based collection receptacles and pre-paid mail-back envelopes to facilitate the safe disposal of leftover pharmaceuticals. These strategies allow residents to dispose of unwanted over-the-counter and prescription drugs (including [controlled substances](#)) for free, no questions asked. Alternative in-home disposal methods – including flushing down the drain or throwing in the trash – do not render leftover drugs irretrievable or environmentally benign.

From March through May 2016, the four original pilot program pharmacies collected 117 pounds of unwanted pharmaceuticals. The new Lewis County General Hospital location offers another convenient collection site for New York residents, and is the first hospital in the county to collect controlled substances for safe disposal. The hospital will collect through the end of September and may decide to continue collections after that time.

Participating pharmacies include:

- **New!** [Lewis County General Hospital](#), 7785 North State Street, Lowville, NY - (315) 376-2970
Hours: Mon-Fri 7:30am – 4:30p; Sat 7:30am – 10:30am
- [Bonaparte Pharmacy](#), 8210 Main St, Harrisville, NY - (315) 537-5032
Hours: Mon-Fri 9:00am – 5:00pm
- [The Falls Pharmacy](#), 6805 McAlpine St, Lyon Falls, NY - (315) 348-8121

Hours: Mon-Fri 9:00am – 6:00pm; Sat 9:00am – 12:00pm

- [U&I Pharmacy](#), 5236 West Seneca St, Vernon, NY - (315) 829-3605
Hours: Mon-Fri 9:00am – 6:00pm
- [Garro Drugs](#), 704 Bleecker St, Utica, NY - (315) 732-6915
Hours: Mon-Fri 9:00am – 6:00pm; Sat 10:00am – 1:00pm

Learn more about PSI's work on pharmaceuticals by visiting the [PSI website](#), or contact [Vivian Fuhrman](#) at (617) 236-4771.

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About the [Product Stewardship Institute](#)

The Product Stewardship Institute (PSI) is a national, membership-based nonprofit committed to reducing the health, safety, and environmental impacts of consumer products across their lifecycle with a strong focus on sustainable end-of-life management. Headquartered in Boston, Mass., PSI takes a unique product stewardship approach to solving waste management problems by encouraging product design changes and mediating stakeholder dialogues. With 47 state environmental agency members, along with hundreds of local government members from coast-to-coast, and 110 corporate, business, academic, non-U.S. government, and organizational partners, we work to design, implement, evaluate, strengthen, and promote both legislative and voluntary product stewardship initiatives across North America. Like us on [Facebook](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#).

About the [New York Product Stewardship Council \(NYPSC\)](#)

NYPSC works to implement the principles of product stewardship in New York State and nationally by providing leadership, guidance, and resources (including policies, evaluations, and educational tools) to individuals, organizations, institutions, local governments, the state legislature, elected officials, and manufacturers. Product stewardship is the act of minimizing health, safety, environmental and social impacts of a product and its packaging throughout all lifecycle stages, and maximizing economic benefits. The producer of a product has the greatest ability to minimize adverse impacts, but other stakeholders such as suppliers, retailers, and consumers also play a role. The NYPSC educates these stakeholders about the benefits of product stewardship and provides a forum for the exchange of information regarding existing policies and programs.