

Disposal of Medications

In accordance with the policy of Tabitha Hospice and in compliance with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), prescription medications in a client's home will be disposed of when:

- The client no longer needs the medications
- The medication's expiration date is reached
- Following a client's discharge from hospice services
- Following a client's death

Due to recent changes being enforced by the DEA, Hospice staff can no longer take possession of a client's medications. The DEA regulations state that only the ultimate user (a person who lawfully obtained, and now possess, medications for either personal use or for use by a member of their household) can dispose of medications when they are either unwanted or unused. Our hospice staff is very willing and able to provide you the resources that you will need to properly dispose of medications, when requested.

Our hospice staff is happy to serve as a witness to you, if you so desire, as you dispose of medications. Please inquire with a member of your Hospice team if you have additional questions or concerns. Thank you.

Available methods of medication disposal include:

1. Disposal into the water system:
The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recommends flushing narcotics and other controlled substances down the toilet or sink, instead of throwing them in the trash. Flushing prevents the drugs from being accidentally used by children or anyone else for whom they were not prescribed.
2. Alternative to disposal in the water system:
Take the unused, unneeded or expired medications from their original container, mix the prescription drugs with flour, coffee grounds or kitty litter, put them in a container such as a coffee can or Ziploc bag, and add a little water to the mixture. Multiple medications can be placed together when disposing.



TABITHA