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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ARKANSAS PHARMACISTS APPLAUD NEW DEA RULE ON DRUG TAKE BACK OPTIONS**

LITTLE ROCK, AR (Sept. 9, 2014) – The Arkansas Pharmacists Association applauds the [final regulation](#) announced by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) today regarding the disposal of controlled substances, which are prescription medications with potential for addiction or abuse.

“The DEA’s final rule on controlled substances return programs is a positive development for our patients who can more easily dispose of unwanted medications that may have potential for abuse. We are still evaluating all of the implications for community pharmacies. Each pharmacy will review the DEA policy and decide which, if any, of the allowed disposal options for controlled substances are feasible at their particular pharmacy, taking into account the community in which they practice,” said Scott Pace, Pharm.D., J.D., APA chief operating officer.

The Disposal of Controlled Substances final rule was published on Sept. 9 in the Federal Register. The final rule is available at <http://www.regulations.gov> and the DEA website, <http://www.DEAdiversion.usdoj.gov>. According to the DEA, the final rule will become effective on October 9, 2014. These regulations implement the Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act of 2010 (Disposal Act). The Disposal Act was passed in an effort to curtail prescription drug abuse by authorizing regulations that outline methods for “ultimate users” to dispose of their unused or unwanted pharmaceutical controlled substances.

The final rule authorizes “ultimate users” to transfer unwanted and unused pharmaceutical controlled substances in their lawful possession to an authorized collector for safe, secure, and responsible disposal. In addition to “ultimate users,” long-term care facilities and persons lawfully entitled to dispose of a decedent's property may also transfer pharmaceutical controlled substances to an authorized collector for the purpose of disposal. The final rule and supporting documents describe in

detail the new collection programs and the various changes to the existing regulations. [Click here for more information.](#)

“For years pharmacists have been industry leaders in disposal of non-controlled substances,” said Pace. “We counsel our patients on the best options for their expired and unused prescription medications whether those are to use the existing drug take-back locations in most Arkansas counties (<http://www.artakeback.org/search-collection-sites>), to take advantage of Drug Take-Back days such as the one coming up on Sept. 27 in Arkansas, or other options,” Pace added.

**About APA:** *The Arkansas Pharmacists Association, founded in 1882, is the statewide professional association representing approximately 2,300 pharmacists in Arkansas. APA strives to further the professional advancement of pharmacists, advocate the value of pharmacy, and safeguard the health and well-being of every Arkansan. Its mission is to advance a professional and business environment for Arkansas pharmacists to be successful and fulfilled in serving patients.*

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