

HANDLING PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AFTER LOVED ONE DIES

DHD#10 and local funeral homes partner to prevent prescription drug abuse

June 13, 2017– Prescription drug abuse is at epidemic levels in the United States with more than 40 people dying every day from overdoses involving prescription opioids. Doctors prescribe them to treat moderate to severe pain, but these drugs can also have serious side effects and risks, including addiction, abuse, and overdose. U.S. residents make up only about 5% of the world population, but consume 80% of the global opioid supply and 99% of the global hydrocodone supply.

District Health Department #10 is partnering with local funeral homes in Wexford and Missaukee counties to include drug disposal site locations in their information packets given to families when making funeral arrangements. When a loved one passes away, the family is often unsure of what to do with prescribed medications left behind. This partnership will help to ease the minds of families during this difficult time and promote safe and proper disposal of medications.

"It's important that we reduce access to other people's prescription drugs to help prevent drug abuse," said Kevin Hughes, Health Officer for District Health Department #10. "One way to accomplish this is through safe and proper disposal of unused or expired medications, as well as monitoring and securing all medications in the home."

District Health Department #10 is committed to reducing prescription drug abuse in our communities. For more information on our efforts or to find out how you can be a part of the solution, contact Angie Gullekson at agullekson@dhd10.org or 231-876-3813.

About DHD #10

District Health Department #10 (DHD #10) is Michigan's largest geographical health department, mandated to promote and protect the public from unsafe and hazardous conditions and provide methods of promoting good health and disease prevention. Some of the vital programs provided by DHD #10 include Immunizations, Infectious Disease Control, STI Testing and Counseling, WIC, Children's Special Health Services, Hearing and Vision Screening, Family Planning, Cancer Screening, Worksite Wellness, Smoking Cessation, Substance Use Prevention, Chronic Disease Prevention, and Environmental Health Services. DHD #10 serves Crawford, Kalkaska, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Missaukee, Newaygo, Oceana, and Wexford counties. For more information, visit www.dhd10.org.

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COUNTIES SERVED:

Crawford
Kalkaska
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Wexford



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