

Disposing of your palliative care medicines safely

Your palliative care medicines play an important role in managing your symptoms. When these medicines are no longer needed or have expired, it is very important to dispose of them safely.

Follow these rules when disposing of medicines:

1. Do not keep unwanted or expired medicines around the home.

- Check the areas of your home where you store medicines. Read the labels and expiry dates and review all medicines. Consider whether they are still needed.¹



There have been incidents where unwanted medicines left in the home have caused harm to children, adults and pets.

2. The ONLY safe way to dispose of medicines is to take them to a pharmacy



SAFETY TIP

Medicines used for palliative care are supplied to you on prescription. For safety, it is important that no one else uses these medicines.

Medicines should NOT be disposed of down the sink, toilet or in the bin. This could harm you, other people, animals or the environment.



Most pharmacies participate in a free national medicine disposal program and have a secure bin for collection.¹

If your local pharmacy is unable to assist, they can recommend a pharmacy that can.

If you are unsure which of your medicines should be disposed of, or have any questions about your unwanted or expired medicines, please speak with your pharmacist, nurse or doctor.