

Legal Regulation and Critical Analysis for an Effectively Treatment of Pharmaceutical Waste

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Abstract : The extermination and proper disposal of pharmaceutical wastes from expired and unused medications remains a disputable issue due to their specific nature and characteristics. Even though the hazards from these wastes are already well known in terms of environment and human health, people still treat them as usual wastes. At a national level, in many countries the management of pharmaceutical and medical wastes has been one of the main objectives in order to protect people's health and the environment. Even though many legal regulations exist in this respect, there has not been a single law that would clearly explain the procedures of returning medicines, ways of selection, treatment and extermination of pharmaceutical wastes. This paper aims at analyzing the practices of pharmaceutical waste management and treatment in some European countries as well as a review of the legislation and official guidelines in managing these kinds of wastes and protecting the environment and human health. A suitable treatment and management of expired medications and other similar wastes would be in the interest of public health in the first place, as well as in the interest of healthcare institutions and other bodies engaged in environment protection.

Keywords : pharmaceutical waste, legal regulation, proper disposal, environment pollution

Conference Title : ICMBPS 2014 : International Conference on Medical, Biological and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Conference Location : Istanbul, Türkiye

Conference Dates : November 28-29, 2014