

A GUIDE TO DISPOSAL OF PHARMACEUTICAL WASTE

Expired pharmaceuticals and other substandard pharmaceutical products present a serious threat to public health and to the environment. Their elimination from the public and subsequent disposal is embedded in NDAs mandate of ensuring that only safe, efficacious and quality drugs are availed to the entire population of Uganda.

This brief provides guidance on the safe disposal of unsuitable pharmaceutical products which will minimize risk to the public health and also minimize environmental pollution.

The appropriate safe disposal methods recommended depend on the pharmaceutical product formulation or the category of chemicals. Therefore, the first step is to sort the materials by form i.e. type e.g. tablets, syrups, rubbers etc.

The common methods used at the moment for the safe disposal of pharmaceutical waste are;

- Ultra-high Temperature incineration, inertisation & land fill and dilution then flushing into protected soak pit or lagoon.
- However, for specialized items such as hazardous industrial chemicals or laboratory waste, solvents or radioactive waste etc, advice should be sought from relevant authority for this category of waste.

NDA Procedure for handling pharmaceutical waste

- Original letter requesting for destruction is presented to NDA together with a detailed list of the obsolete items to be disposed of.
 - After inspection and assessment by an official of NDA, if the pharmaceutical waste is 100kg or less, the client is given a bank slip to go and pay for the weight specified. Each kilogram of pharmaceutical waste is destroyed by NDA at fee which shall be revised from time to time depending on the method of destruction and the products to be destroyed. After payment the expired items are kept in the NDA “expired drugs store”.
 - If the pharmaceutical waste is more than 100kg, the client is advised to contact NDA accredited service providers for the destruction. In such an instance NDA shall provide an Inspector of Drugs who will supervise the safe disposal of the expired pharmaceutical waste.
 - NDA charges a fee per hour for the supervision of safe disposal of the pharmaceutical waste.
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Below are the NDA accredited service providers for handling, transportation and safe disposal of obsolete pharma and laboratory waste

1. Green Label Services

Plot 14 Tufnell Drive, P.O Box 40303 Kampala.

Tel. 0414 531135/0772423092/0702423092

2. P.B Holdings Ltd

P.O Box 72340 Kampala

0703434300/0772434300

3. Soval International Ltd.

Garnesh Plaza, Entebbe Rd, Level 4,

P.O Box 72340, Kampala.

Tel. 0783142368

4. Array Services Ltd

Plot 28 Chorley Crescent, Luzira,

Tel. 0312517749/0701840969

5. ERB Holdings Ltd

Plot 6 Kamu-Kamu Plaza, Entebbe Road

Tel.0782732891

6. Desan Services Ltd

Plot 67, Kira Road, P.O Box 1730, Kampala

Tel. 0772346015

7. Bin It Services

Plot 134, Bukoto Street, P.O Box 1730 Kampala

Tel.0414531