

### **Can I donate unused cancer drugs or medical devices to be used by someone in need?**

Yes, unused cancer drugs and medical devices can be donated, to be used by uninsured and underinsured cancer patients in Colorado.

### **Where do I donate?**

Any pharmacy, or facility associated with a pharmacy such as a hospital, hospice, or clinic with a pharmacist can accept and dispense cancer drugs and devices through the program. A pharmacist must accept the drug or device, and determine that it is safe to be redispensed.

### **Why would a pharmacist not accept my medications?**

The pharmacist does not have to accept the drug or device if he or she has any concerns about safety of the drug or device. There are specific rules about which drugs cannot be donated (see below). In addition, a pharmacist may have concerns about how a drug has been stored, or that it may not be in its original packaging.

### **What if my pharmacy doesn't know about the program?**

The program is new as of April 19, 2006. Many pharmacies may not have yet established programs to manage donations. The regulations for the program are available on the internet at: <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/op/regs/preventionservicesregs.asp>

Each facility can choose to participate in the program, but is not required by law to participate.

### **What drugs can be donated?**

Any drug that is used to treat cancer or the side effects of cancer. The drug must be in a sealed, unit dose package, or in sealed individual doses such as blister packing. Sealed vials are also acceptable.

### **What drugs cannot be donated?**

Drugs that are in traditional brown or amber pill bottles cannot be donated. Expired drugs cannot be donated. Controlled substances, such as narcotic painkillers, many sleeping pills, and anxiety medications cannot be donated, because federal law prohibits their return. Drugs that require refrigeration, freezing, or special storage cannot be donated. Drugs requiring special registration with the manufacturer cannot be donated.

### **Who is eligible to receive donated drugs and devices?**

Any person who is uninsured or underinsured is eligible to receive donated drugs and devices. The person receiving the drug or device has to have a diagnosis of cancer and have a prescription from a practitioner.

### **What devices can be donated?**

Only those unused devices that require a physician's prescription can be donated to the program, according to state law.

### **Who do I call about questions?**

Please direct all questions to 303-692-2520 at the Comprehensive Cancer Program, Division of Prevention Services, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.