

SECTION: NURSING SERVICES

POLICY #: 409 DISPOSAL OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

POLICY: Central Valley Health District will follow the Federal guidelines for the proper disposal of prescription drugs.

PROCEDURE:

1. Take unused, unneeded, or expired prescription drugs out of their original containers.
2. Mix the prescription drugs with an undesirable substance, like used coffee grounds, kitty litter or mix with water and put them in impermeable, non-descript containers, such as empty cans or sealable bags, further ensuring that the drugs are not diverted or accidentally ingested by children or pets. Staff should use their best judgment when disposing of drugs if using methods other than those listed above.
3. Throw these containers in the trash.
4. Flush prescription drugs down the toilet only if the accompanying patient information specifically instructs it is safe to do so.
5. Return unused, unneeded or expired prescription drugs to pharmaceutical take-back locations that allow the public to bring unused drugs to central location for safe disposal.
****Locally available at Stutsman County Law Enforcement Center (6/10/2011)**

Reference: February 20, 2007 – Federal Government issues new guidelines for proper disposal of prescription drugs. www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov