



South Bay Medical Center

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KAISER PERMANENTE SOUTH BAY PARTNERS WITH LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TO TAKE BACK UNWANTED PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Harbor City, CA — Kaiser Permanente Southern California, in partnership with local law enforcement agencies, is encouraging community members to participate in the 10th “National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day” on Saturday, September 26, 2015, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Prescription drug take-back programs provide local residents with an opportunity to safely and easily dispose of expired, unwanted, or unused medicines.

“Events like this not only address a crucial public safety and public health concern, but they provide pharmacies and law enforcement with an additional forum for raising awareness about the benefits of participating in the program,” said Paula Barton Mann, Vice President, National Pharmacy Compliance, Kaiser Permanente. “Care providers like Kaiser Permanente often take this opportunity to educate patients and families about the dangers of expired, unwanted, or unused medications, particularly when they are not properly destroyed. It has historically been quite a successful program for us, and one our members frequently utilize.”

Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 44 people die from drug overdoses involving prescription painkillers every day in the United States. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet.

“This program has been a tremendous success,” said Alan Kiyohara, vice president, Pharmacy Operations and Services, Kaiser Permanente Southern California. “In 2014, our Southern California facilities collected over 7,300 pounds of expired or unwanted medicines. By properly disposing of prescription drugs, we eliminate expired or unwanted medication that can otherwise pose a hazard to the safety of children, families, local communities, and the environment.”

Kaiser Permanente South Bay medical center will serve as a drop-off site for disposal of expired, unwanted, and unused medicines. The service is free, easy, and anonymous. **Residents may bring their medications for disposal to:**

Parkview Building
Kaiser Permanente South Bay Medical Center
25825 S. Vermont Avenue
Harbor City, CA 90710

If residents are unable to participate on September 26, they can also purchase “mail back” postage-paid envelopes available at Kaiser Permanente and many other pharmacies.

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About Kaiser Permanente South Bay

Kaiser Permanente South Bay has provided comprehensive, affordable health care to the Long Beach, Harbor and South Bay communities for 65 years and serves more than 220,000 members. The South Bay Service Area

includes the Kaiser Permanente South Bay Medical Center in Harbor City, and medical offices in Carson, Gardena, Lomita, Long Beach, and Torrance. Care for members and patients is focused on their total health and guided by their personal physicians, specialists, and team of caregivers. Our expert and caring medical teams are empowered and supported by industry-leading technology advances and tools for health promotion, disease prevention, state-of-the art care delivery, and world-class chronic disease management. Kaiser Permanente is dedicated to care innovations, clinical research, health education, and the support of community health. For more information, go to: www.kp.org/southbay.