

UNIVERSAL PHARMACEUTICAL WASTE (UPW)

Universal Pharmaceutical Waste Containers



Examples of Universal Pharmaceutical Waste:

- *Partial vials, ointment, creams and lotions, inhalants*
- *Patients' personal medications left behind*
- *Outdated samples*
- *Expired medicine that cannot be returned for credit*

DO:

- **Keep containers closed except when adding UPW**
- **Identify containers with supplied labels**
- **Write date on container when first utilized for UPW disposal**
- **Contain & cleanup spilled UPW immediately**
- **Dispose of UPW container within 6 months of date on label**
- **Attend annual training**
- **Bring full containers of UPW to central accumulation area for proper disposal and replace with empty container**

DON'T:

- **Dispose of controlled substances, sharps or spilled pharmaceuticals as UPW**
- **Dispose of UPW in red bags, down drain or in trash**