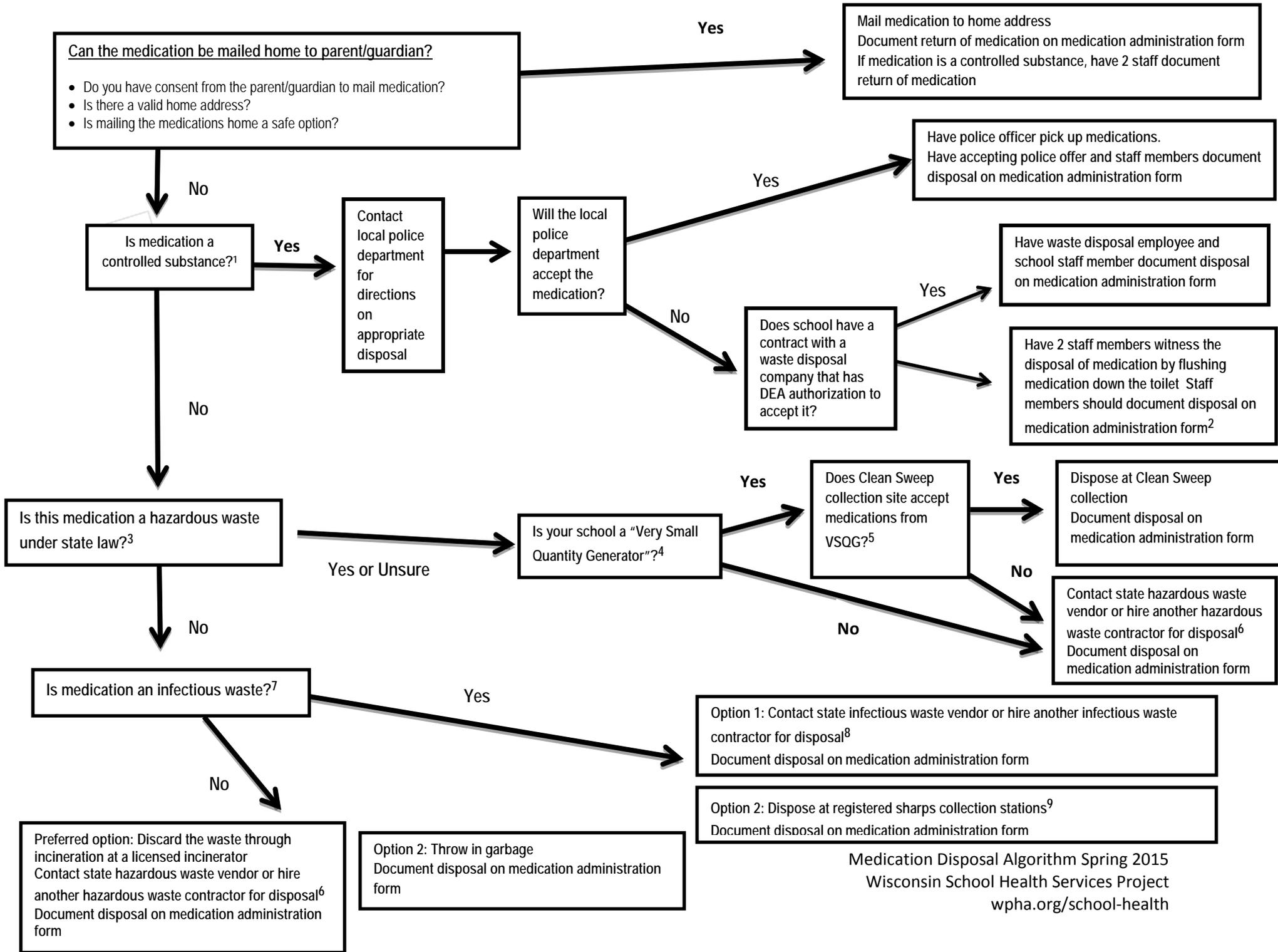


Medication Disposal Algorithm

The following procedure sample was created as part of the Developing a School Health Services Assessment Tool and Related Resources Project. This project is funded by Healthier Wisconsin Partnership Program, a component of the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin endowment at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

The Medication Disposal Algorithm has incorporated state and federal requirements along with best practice recommendations. Although it would be best practice to implement all the components of the procedure in your school district, we are aware that district capacity, resources and other factors may result in adoption of portions of the sample procedure.

We encourage you to meet as a team within your district to review the procedure and identify what components of the procedure you are currently doing in your district. If you have the capacity to expand upon what you are currently doing, review the sample procedure to identify what other practices you would be able to implement.



1. **Controlled substances:**

Here are a few medications likely to be found in schools and known to be controlled substances (this list is not all inclusive):

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Adderall® | Dextroamphetamine | Methylphenidate | Roxanol® |
| Alprazolam | Dextrostat® | Modafinil | Roxanol-SR® |
| Anexsia® | Diazepam | Morphine | Roxicet® |
| Anodynos-DHC® | Dilaudid® | Morphine Sulfate® | Roxicodone® |
| Astramorph® | Endocet® | Norco® | Serax® |
| Ativan® | Fioricet® | Oramorph SR® | Statex® |
| Benzodiazepine | Focalin® | Oxycodone | Tranxene® |
| Clonazepam | Hydrocodone | OxyContin® | Tylenol® with Codeine |
| Codeine | Hydromorphone | OxyFAST® | Tylox® |
| Concerta® | Klonopin® | OxylR® | Valium® |
| Cortef | Lisdexamfetamine | Percocet® | Vicodin® |
| Darvocet-N® | Lorazepam | Pregabalin | Vyvanse® |
| Darvon® | Lorcet® | Propoxyphene | Xanax® |
| Darvon-N® | Lortab® | Provigil® | Zydone® |
| Daytrana® | Lyrica | Ritalin® | |
| Dexedrine® | Metadate® | Ritalina® | |
| Dexmethylphenidate | Methylin® | Ritaline® | |

2. Although flushing controlled substances down the toilet is currently legal, it is not considered best practice.

3. **Hazardous medications:** It is up to you to determine that each medication is not a hazardous waste and document your decision and the source of information. If you are not sure or do not have time to document it, you should assume that the medication is a hazardous waste. To help you with your decisions, here are a few medications likely to be found in schools and known to be hazardous waste when discarded (this list is not all inclusive):

- Ammonia, aromatic Inhalant
- chemotherapy drugs
- Coumadin
- Dilantin
- Erythromycin topical gel 2%
- Flagyl
- Insulin
- Lomotil
- pressurized aerosol inhalers (such as albuterol)
- rubbing alcohol
- Silver sulfadiazine cream
- vaccines containing mercury

4. Check with school engineering staff to determine if the school is a Very Small Quantity Generator.

5. Districts may also utilize a county or city's Clean Sweep collection site if the collection site accepts medications from Very Small Quantity Generators (VSQG). http://datcp.wi.gov/Environment/Clean_Sweep/Business/index.aspx

6. School districts may choose to consolidate hazardous waste with other school districts within a county and dispose of the waste using the state hazardous waste vendor <http://vendornet.state.wi.us/vendornet/default.asp> or hire another hazardous waste contractor for disposal. To find a hazardous waste contractor go to <http://dnr.wi.gov> and search for the topic "pharmaceutical waste". (Check with school engineer for more information on disposing of hazardous waste).

7. Infectious Waste

- Epipen®:
 - i. If unable to return an unexpired epinephrine syringe (Epipen®), a school may keep the Epipen® for use in a life-threatening emergency. Upon expiration, the Epipen® is an infectious waste.
- used or sterile syringes
- used or sterile lancets

8. School districts may choose to consolidate infectious waste with other school districts within a county and dispose of the waste using the state infectious waste vendor <http://vendornet.state.wi.us/vendornet/default.asp> or hire another infectious waste contractor for disposal. <http://dnr.wi.gov> and search for the topic "health care waste". Under the heading for non-households, choose "infectious waste." (Check with school engineer for more information on disposing of infectious waste).

9. School districts can take sharps to a healthcare provider, which accepts sharps from the public, or to a registered sharps collection station. To find a site that collects sharps look on <http://dnr.wi.gov/> search for "Healthcare waste" and click on the link about sharps collection.

10. Common Non-Hazardous Medications:

- Abilify
- Acetaminophen
- Benadryl
- Carbamazepine
- Clonidine
- Depakote
- Dextromethorphan HBr, USP
- Dulcolax
- Felbamate
- Glucagon
- Guaifenesin
- Ibuprofen
- Imitrex
- Lactaid
- Miralax
- Naproxen
- Pepto-Bismol
- Phenylephrine HCl, USP
- Risperdol
- Seroquel
- Singulair
- Stratterra
- Tums
- Wellbutrin
- Zoloft
- Zyrtec

References:

Environmental Protection Agency. (2009). *Hazardous Waste Characteristics. A User-Friendly Reference Document*. Available at: <http://www.epa.gov/osw/hazard/wastetypes/wasteid/char/hw-char.pdf>.

Practice Greenhealth. (2008). *Managing Pharmaceutical Waste. Ten Step Blueprint to Managing Pharmaceutical Waste in the United States*. Available at: <http://www.hercenter.org/hazmat/tenstepblueprint.pdf>.

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Acknowledgment of Reviewers:

Barb Bickford, DNR Medical Waste Coordinator

Bette Carr, MSN, RN, NCSN

Marcia Creasy, BSN, RN

Sharon Daun, RN,BSN, MS, NCSN

Rachel Gallagher, RN, CPNP, NCSN

Mary Kay Kempken, RN, BSN, NCSN

Jill Krueger, RN, BSN

Mary Kay Logemann, RN, BSN, MEd

Barbara Brancel Maley, RN, BSN

Kerri Schmidt, BSN, RN, NCSN

Joan Simpson, RN, BSN, MPH

Lynne Svetnicka, RN, MS, CPNP

Lori Zinck-Jezwinski, RN, MS, CPNP