

## HANDLING HAZARDOUS MEDICATIONS SAFELY AT HOME

This information provides guidance on handling, storing, and disposing of your medications safely at home, in conjunction with any instructions or counseling provided by our pharmacists.

If you have any questions concerning your medications, please feel free to contact a pharmacist via our toll-free numbers.

### **Handling your medication:**

- Wash your hands before and after handling your medication.
- Wear disposable gloves if applying medications such as creams or gels to the skin.
- Discard used gloves, medicine cups, and/or oral or topical syringes by placing them in a plastic bag. Tie or seal the bag and place in your household trash bag for disposal. Do not reuse these items.

### **Storing your medication:**

- Your pharmacist will tell you if there are any special storage instructions regarding your medication.
- Keep all medications out of the reach of children and pets.
- Always store your medications in their original containers.
- If your medication needs to be refrigerated, place it in a separate area in your refrigerator away from food.
- Do not store medications in areas of high moisture such as bathrooms.

### **Disposing of your medication and medication containers:**

If you have a local pharmacy or facility that has a drug take-back program, it is recommended that you utilize their program for disposal of unused medications.

If not, to dispose of your unused medications:

- DO NOT flush medications down the toilet.
- Wear disposable gloves and take the medication out of its original container.
- Mix the drugs with an undesirable substance such as cat litter or used coffee grounds.
- Put the mixture into a disposable container with a lid such as an empty plastic container.
- Black out or remove any personal information from your container.
- Seal the container and place the contents into the trash.