

From: **Virginia Board of Optometry**
Date: Fri, May 17, 2019 at 6:30 PM
Subject: New Standards for hazardous waste pharmaceuticals



Virginia Department of Health Professions

[Board of Optometry](#)

Virginia Board of Optometry

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality has asked the Board of Optometry to send out the following information:

ATTENTION HEALTHCARE FACILITIES, REVERSE DISTRIBUTORS AND OTHER IMPACTED FACILITIES**

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Hazardous Waste (HW) Pharmaceuticals Rule was published in the Federal Register on February 22, 2019. Parts of this rule will become **effective on August 21, 2019**. Among other requirements, the rule will mandate that all healthcare facilities and reverse distributors must stop flushing down the drain or placing into any sewer system all hazardous waste pharmaceuticals. Prior to this cut-off date, all healthcare facilities and reverse distributors must develop an alternate plan for the management of hazardous waste pharmaceuticals.

Under the HW Pharmaceuticals Rule, alternate management standards have been developed for all hazardous waste pharmaceuticals. These standards will become effective in Virginia after August 21, 2019. Statewide training will be conducted prior to the effective date in Virginia. Please stay tuned to the DEQ [hazardous waste webpage](#) for more information and training opportunities.

**Healthcare facility (HF) means any person that is lawfully authorized to (1) provide preventative, diagnostic, therapeutic, rehabilitative, maintenance or palliative care, and counseling, service, assessment or procedure with respect to the physical or mental condition, or functional status, of a human or animal or that affects the structure or function of the human or animal body; or (2) distribute, sell, or dispense pharmaceuticals, including over-the-counter pharmaceuticals, dietary supplements, homeopathic drugs, or prescription pharmaceuticals.

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- Includes, but is not limited to: wholesale distributors, third-party logistics providers that serve as forward distributors, military medical logistics facilities, hospitals, psychiatric hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, health clinics, physicians' offices, **optical** and dental **providers**, chiropractors, long-term care facilities, ambulance services, pharmacies, long-term care pharmacies, mail-order pharmacies, retailers of pharmaceuticals, veterinary clinics, and veterinary hospitals
 - This definition does not include pharmaceutical manufacturers, reverse distributors, or reverse logistics centers

Questions may be directed to Lisa A. Ellis, Hazardous Waste Compliance Coordinator at lisa.ellis@deq.virginia.gov.