

# How to Get Rid of Old and Unused Opioid (Narcotic) Medicines

## Why is it important to get rid of old and unused opioid medicines?

- They can be harmful to children.
- Anyone can have an accidental overdose.
- Too many medicine bottles can be confusing.
- People might abuse them because they believe it is a safe way to get high.

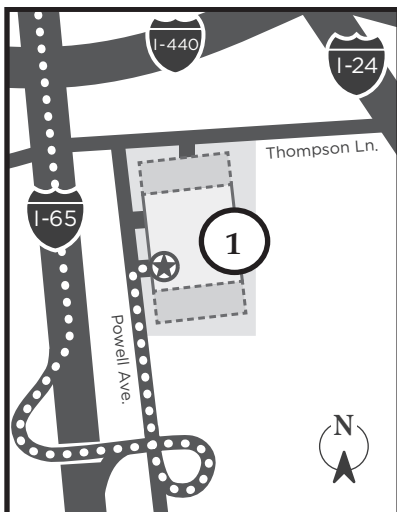
## What should I do with old or unused opioid medicines?

One option is to put the medicine into a MedSafe® disposal unit at a Vanderbilt retail pharmacy:

- 1 One Hundred Oaks Pharmacy in Vanderbilt Health, One Hundred Oaks



One Hundred Oaks, 719 Thompson Ln



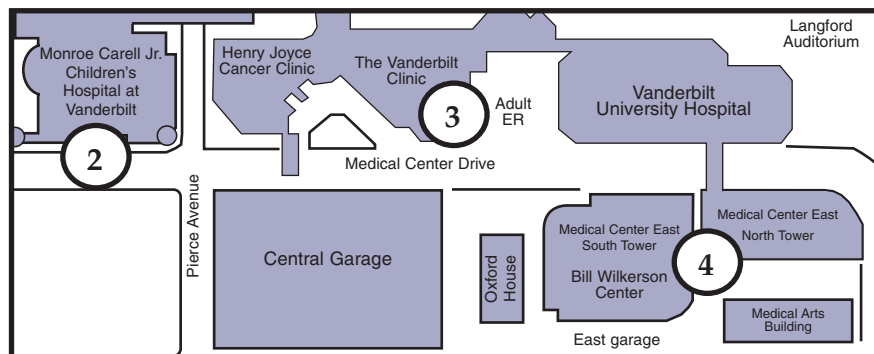
- 2 Children's Outpatient Pharmacy in Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt
- 3 The Vanderbilt Clinic Pharmacy in The Vanderbilt Clinic
- 4 Medical Center East Pharmacy in Medical Center East

## What can I put in the MedSafe®?

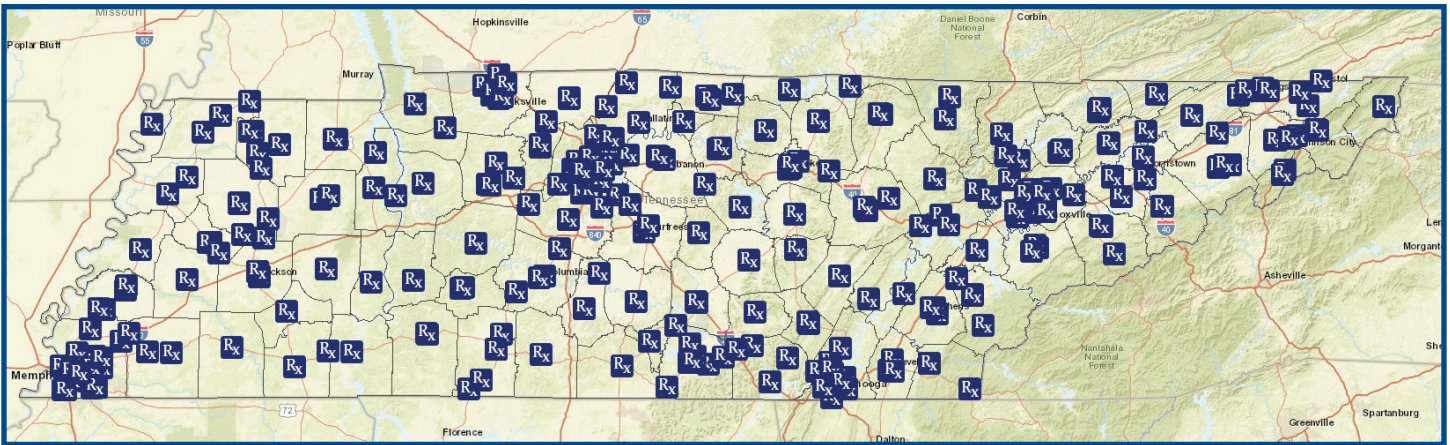
- Prescription pills in any packaging (glass bottles, plastic containers, plastic bags, etc.)
- Liquid medicines (in leak-proof containers)
- Medicated ointments, lotions, or drops
- Over-the-counter medicines
- Pet medicines.

## What is NOT okay to put in the MedSafe®?

- Illegal drugs such as marijuana or heroin
- Needles and other sharp objects
- Batteries, medical devices, IV bags
- Infectious waste such as used syringes.



Vanderbilt University Medical Center  
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You can also discard opioids at locations throughout Tennessee. Scan the QR code or go to [tdeconline.tn.gov/rxtakeback/](https://tdeconline.tn.gov/rxtakeback/) to find a location near you.



For locations outside of Tennessee, scan the QR code or go to <https://apps.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/pubdispsearch/spring/main?execution=e2s1>.

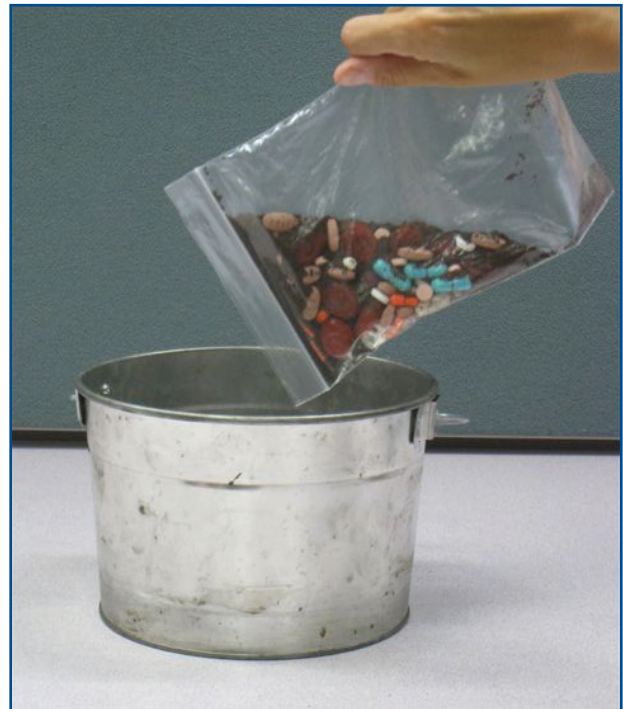


## How should I dispose of old or unused opioid medicines at home?

If your medicine came with instructions for disposal or if you have a drug-disposal product such as DisposeRx, Detera, RxDestroyer, or Drugbuster, follow those instructions.

If you aren't able to drop off the medicine in a disposal unit, return it to the manufacturer, or use a drug-disposal product, follow these steps:

1. Take the medicine out of its original container.
2. Scratch off your name and the prescription number or mark over them with black permanent marker. Recycle or throw away the container.
3. Mix the medicine with something no person or animal would bother. Cat litter or coffee grounds are good. Do not flush medicine down the toilet or rinse down the sink.



4. Put the mixture into a sealable container—for example, one with a lid, such as an empty margarine tub, or a sealable plastic bag—and throw it away.