

Merck & Co., Inc.  
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California Department of Resources, Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)  
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RE: 2021 Sharps Management Plan for Merck & Co., Inc

To Whom It May Concern:

Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp., a wholly owned subsidiary of Merck & Co., Inc., (hereinafter "Merck" or "the Company") provides this letter in response to the requirements of California Article 3.3 of Chapter 1, Part 7 of the Public Resources Code (2009) (contained in Senate Bill 486). At Merck, our fundamental responsibility is discovering, developing and delivering innovative medicines and vaccines that can make a difference in people's lives and create a healthier future. We believe that fulfilling this responsibility in a sustainable manner demands high ethical standards and a culture that values honesty, integrity and transparency in all that we do.

Merck manufactures several medicines which a patient injects at home at the direction of his or her physician. In addition, Merck Animal Health manufactures an injectable veterinary insulin to treat dog and cat diabetes. It is an important part of such therapeutic regimens for the patient to understand the appropriate methods by which to dispose of the resulting home generated sharps waste. Therefore, Merck supports the safe management of used sharps for its injectable medicines as described below.

Merck uses product enhancement programs to educate the healthcare provider, as well as the patient, on the methods for used sharps management. New patients are provided information on proper disposal and, where products utilize the safe sharps technology, detailed instructions on the use of these technologies for specific drug delivery injection devices. This information is

provided to the patient by the healthcare provider at the beginning of the therapy cycle. As part of the therapy support, the healthcare provider discusses the FDA approved administration of the Merck treatment, which includes discussion of the proper management of used sharps. Furthermore, for all Human Health products, appropriate disposal information and instruction are included on many of the package inserts and patient information sheets supplied to the patient. The following outlines the current product disposal assistance provided by Merck:

#### Human Health Products

These treatments utilize pen injectors for multiple use or single use, pre-filled syringes and standard syringes for single-use products. Healthcare providers provide instructions on proper administration to patients and discuss proper procedures for the disposal of used needles and syringes. In addition to healthcare provider discussions, needle, syringe and cartridge disposal information is provided on the product inserts as well as the patient instructions for administering the injectable products. The patient information also instructs the patient not to dispose of the needle in their household trash.

#### Animal Health Products

Animal therapies that utilize injectable delivery systems are strictly managed by veterinarians. The customer, while administering the medication at home, follows a specified treatment regimen including sharps management and follow-up visits. These visits allow the veterinarian to collect used sharps, examine the patient and review the delivery system requirements for the next round of treatment.

Merck provides support to our healthcare partners for the medicines we manufacture and distribute. Our relationship with our customers is of the utmost importance to the Company and we look forward to future efforts to assist them.

In addition to the above-mentioned therapeutic support for our patients, Merck participates in the Pharmaceutical Product Stewardship Work Group (PPSWG) sharps collection program for the municipalities and counties that have promulgated sharps collection legislation.

On behalf of Merck and other group members, PPSWG is currently working to implement a state-wide pharmaceutical and sharps collection program as required by California's Pharmaceutical and Sharps Waste Stewardship Law (SB212). It is anticipated that this state-

wide collection program will be fully implemented in the first half of 2022.