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PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE COMMITTEE
ADDRESSES CONCERN OF DEATHS RELATED TO
PRESCRIPTION ABUSE. A REVIEW OF STORED
UNUSED MEDICATIONS AND DISPOSAL (B2), Alicia
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(abyrd@communitymed.org) IRB not needed.

Prescription drug abuse and deaths relating to the misuse of controlled substances is increasingly becoming a problem nationally. Montana has an alarming high rate of abuse and is currently ranked in the top five states identified with abuse of controlled medications. The Prescription Drug Abuse Committee was formed in the city of Missoula to address an increase in fatal overdoses. The incarnation of public resources by the Committee aims to cut down the number of narcotics available in households by creating public awareness and disposal events. A qualitative survey of patients recently hospitalized will be collected for four to six weeks at Community Medical Center. Methods include a survey incorporating nine questions that will assess age, amount of prescriptions prescribed, and information concerning disposal techniques. Two hypotheses will be tested: a hypothesis correlating an increase of medications with an increase in age and secondly a hypothesis identifying that current recommendations for medication disposal are not communicated to patients when counseled. Results will include analyzed data evaluating the public awareness of controlled substances and disposal techniques. In

conclusion, a tri-fold pamphlet containing current disposal guidelines will be distributed to the patients participating in the survey to cut down on the number of controlled medications available in households. Analyzed qualitative data will be available to the Committee.