



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CRITICAL PATH INSTITUTE JOINS COMMUNITY PARTNERS IN DISPOSE-A-MED PROGRAM

Collaboration to promote safe use and disposal of medications

Tucson, Arizona, May 18, 2011 – Critical Path Institute (C-Path) announced that it has become a proud partner in Dispose-A-Med, a joint, community-based initiative focused on the safe disposal of outdated and unneeded medicines, especially narcotics. This program is a collaborative effort of the Town of Oro Valley Police Department, Oro Valley Optimist Club, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), SOBER Project, Meth Free Alliance, Golder Ranch Fire District, and Pima County Wastewater among others.

Each month, the Southern Arizona community is encouraged to bring their unwanted medications to designated sites where the police and DEA collect them for [safe disposal](#) (incineration). Hundreds of pounds of dangerous pills that would otherwise be flushed into the groundwater are collected.

Improper storage and disposal of unused medications is increasingly becoming a problem in communities throughout the country. This poses a significant threat to the environment and our water supplies, as well as alarming health effects from substance abuse and/or adverse drug interactions. The non-medical use of prescription pain relievers is now the second-most prevalent form of illicit drug use in the United States with a 400% increase in emergency room admissions and substance abuse treatment centers. Accidental ingestion by children, the elderly, or pets also can have life-threatening consequences.

According to Raymond Woosley, MD, PhD, and President and CEO of C-Path, “We are proud to partner with these other dedicated organizations to promote awareness of safe medication use and how to properly dispose of outdated medications. C-Path is concerned with improving medication safety both pre-market (during the development process), as well as during, and after, patient use.”

The Dispose-A-Med initiative clearly fits the mission of C-Path’s [Arizona Center for Education and Research on Therapeutics \(AzCERT\)](#), a collaboration between C-Path and the College of Pharmacy of The University of Arizona (UA). The AzCERT is one of 14 national centers funded by the U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to conduct research and offer educational programs that will advance the optimal use of drugs, medical devices, and biological products. Together the centers serve as a trusted national resource for health care providers, pharmacists, consumers, health care delivery systems, and government agencies. The AzCERT’s charge is to improve patient safety by increasing awareness of and preventing harm caused by interactions between combinations of medicines.

About Critical Path Institute (C-Path): An independent, non-profit organization established in 2005 with public and private philanthropic support from the Arizona community, Science Foundation Arizona (SFAz), and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), C-Path is committed to transformational improvement of the drug development process. An international leader in forming collaborations around this mission, C-Path has

established first-of-its-kind global partnerships that currently include over 1,000 scientists from government regulatory agencies, academia, patient advocacy organizations, and thirty two major pharmaceutical companies. C-Path is headquartered in Tucson, Arizona, with offices in Phoenix, Arizona, and Rockville, Maryland. For more information, visit www.c-path.org.

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