



## NEWS UPDATE

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### **Drug regulator issues list of 17 drugs which should be flushed down if unused or expired**

India's top drug regulatory body, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), has recently issued a directive identifying 17 high-risk medicines that should be flushed down the sink or toilet if they remain unused or expire. This measure was announced to targets households to ensure safer and more effective drug disposal. The list largely comprises opioids and potent medications: such as fentanyl, morphine, tapentadol, buprenorphine, tramadol, diazepam, methylphenidate, and others; which pose serious risks if accidentally ingested, misused, or accessed by children and pets.

This flush-based disposal is an exceptional instruction meant for these specific drugs, due to their high potential for fatal misuse even in small doses and the inability to safely return them through household waste or take-back programs. Moreover, CDSCO advised state drug control departments and chemist associations to set up "Drug Take-Back" sites, allowing safer disposal of other medicines through established biomedical-waste channels. This initiative is also aimed at reducing antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and protecting the environment from pharmaceutical pollutants.

The 17 drugs listed include:	
1. Fentanyl	10. Tapentadol
2. Fentanyl Citrate	11. Oxycodone Hydrochloride
3. Diazepam	12. Oxycodone
4. Buprenorphine	13. Oxymorphone Hydrochloride
5. Buprenorphine Hydrochloride	14. Sodium Oxybate
6. Morphine Sulfate	15. Tramadol
7. Methadone Hydrochloride	16. Methylphenidate
8. Hydromorphone Hydrochloride	17. Meperidine Hydrochloride
9. Hydrocodone Bitartrate	

**Source:** <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/drug-regulator-issues-list-of-17-drugs-which-should-be-flushed-down-if-unused-or-expired/articleshow/122305871.cms>