**INCORRECT DISPOSAL OF MEDICINES IN BRAZIL: CAUSES, CONSEQUENCES AND PERSPECTIVES.**

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The disposal of medicines is an upcoming problem all over the world. When disposed of, drugs continue with their active ingredients, with physical and chemical characteristics that persist in the environment. It represents potentials to interfere in the life of other living beings which are difficult to degrade. The objective of this study is to analyze the way of medicine disposal and the impacts of this practice on human health and the environment, specifically in Brazil. The methodology used consisted of a literature review using the databases, Google Scholar, Google, Scielo, focused on Brazil, in publications in Portuguese or English, from 2011 to 2020. The following key words were used: drug disposal, environmental impacts and reverse logistics. After the search, 15 publications were found, with the theme of incorrect disposal (6), environmental contamination (3), laws (1), reverse logistics (5). The results obtained indicate that drugs are improperly disposed of by the population, being common garbage and sewage system the most common way. In Brazil there are no laws that regulate the disposal by the domestic consumer. For healthcare facilities, however, there is application of reverse logistics. The medicines can cause a strong imbalance in the earth's ecosystem when improperly disposed of. Current knowledge regarding the impacts of incorrect disposal is still scarce, and it is necessary to invest in research on this subject. Incorrect disposal leads to contamination of soil and water resources. There is evidence that some medicines as contraceptives are responsible for causing fish feminization interfering in their endocrine metabolism, besides antibiotics results in bacterial resistance. Other active principles cause bioaccumulation and biomagnification in animals. Therefore, it is necessary to promote health education for rational use, correct disposal, in addition to implementing an effective policy that describes the correct destination for these pharmaceutical products and a more comprehensive national management plan.

**Keywords:** Drug, environmental impact, pharmaceutical regulation