



At a Glance

Why We Did This Review

We assessed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) actions to address Recommendations 1 and 2 in Office of Inspector General (OIG) Report No. 12-P-0508, *EPA Inaction in Identifying Hazardous Waste Pharmaceuticals May Result in Unsafe Disposal*, issued May 25, 2012. The Assistant Administrator for the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) was the action official responsible for ensuring the completion of corrective actions. EPA's information systems reported that OSWER completed corrective actions for the two recommendations.

This report addresses the following EPA goals or cross-agency strategies:

- *Ensuring the safety of chemicals and preventing pollution.*
- *Protecting America's waters.*

Send all inquiries to our public affairs office at (202) 566-2391 or visit www.epa.gov/oig.

The full report is at: www.epa.gov/oig/reports/2015/20150819-15-P-0260.pdf

Follow-Up Report: EPA Proposes to Streamline the Review, Management and Disposal of Hazardous Waste Pharmaceuticals

What We Found

OSWER corrective actions meet the intent of OIG recommendations to review new and existing pharmaceuticals that may qualify as hazardous waste. In our prior report:

- Recommendation 1 required OSWER to identify and review existing pharmaceuticals to determine whether they qualify for regulation as hazardous waste.
- Recommendation 2 required OSWER to establish a process to review new pharmaceuticals to determine whether they qualify for regulation as hazardous waste.

EPA states that it intends to issue a proposed rule, *Management Standards for Hazardous Waste*, which will attempt to streamline the approach to managing and disposing of hazardous and nonhazardous pharmaceutical waste.

A third recommendation required OSWER to develop a nationally consistent outreach and compliance assistance plan to help states address challenges that health care facilities, and others as needed, have in complying with Resource Conservation and Recovery Act regulations for managing hazardous waste pharmaceuticals. This recommendation is open with corrective action pending.

In March 2015, OSWER submitted a proposed rule to the Office of Management and Budget that requests comments on the approaches to review new and existing pharmaceuticals as well as the management and disposal of hazardous waste pharmaceuticals. Therefore, we make no recommendations, and this report is closed upon issuance.