**The dos and don’ts of medication disposal**

**\*\*\*SOT\*\*\*
Corey Bates, manager of Pharmacy Operations at OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony’s Health Center in Alton, Illinois**

“Many times, we’ve read reports of people who take medication from their parent’s medicine chest. They go to a party, and everybody dumps a bottle into a bowl. Throughout the party, everybody just takes out whatever they want to party with. That’s one of the most dangerous things I’ve ever heard of in my life. Just because it’s in your medicine chest doesn’t mean it’s an opioid or anything that’s going to make you feel better. It could stop your heart.” (:24)

**\*\*\*SOT\*\*\*
Corey Bates, manager of Pharmacy Operations at OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony’s Health Center in Alton, Illinois**

“It’s kind of like a mailbox. You pull open the lever. There’s an open door. You drop [the drugs] in the box. You push the lever back. [The drugs] go into a secure box underneath the opening. Nobody can reach it. Nobody can retrieve [the drugs].” (:14)

**\*\*\*SOT\*\*\*
Corey Bates, manager of Pharmacy Operations at OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony’s Health Center in Alton, Illinois**

“If you want to take a black marker and mark through your name, that’s quite OK. Or try to peel off the prescription labels, that’s fine too. But no one is looking at any of the labels. We’re just closing the top of the box, taping it shut and contacting our company.” (:15)

**\*\*\*SOT\*\*\*
Corey Bates, manager of Pharmacy Operations at OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony’s Health Center in Alton, Illinois**

“Some people even make their own [needle boxes]. They find a hard plastic container like the one that holds your dishwasher pods. It’s very hard. Nothing can break into it. Seal it up with duct tape, and you can throw it away safely.” (:12)

**\*\*\*SOT\*\*\*
Corey Bates, manager of Pharmacy Operations at OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony’s Health Center in Alton, Illinois**

“Sometimes people don’t use all of their medication because they want to have some left over in case they get sick again. That’s not really a good plan. Most medications that you get are for a set period of time, especially for infections. A doctor wants you to take it for seven days or 10 days. And you feel better on day five and decide to hold up a few in case it comes back. If it comes back, you’re probably going to have another seven to 10 day course of therapy.” (:25)