

The Big Picture on Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products

Assign points as you see best for this assessment

For each of the questions, give thoughtful and complete responses using the information you obtained from this unit.

1. Objectively describe PPCPs and issues related to their use.
Students should describe:
 - The acronym PPCP
 - What they include
 - Issues:
 - Over prescribing by doctors
 - People flushing unwanted medications
 - Wastewater treatment inadequacies
 - Some possible effects of PPCPs on aquatic wildlife
2. How have PPCPs changed over time? Has anything remained the same? Give examples.
 - Medications were derived mainly from local botanicals
 - Many recommendations for improved health (exercise, eating right) haven't changed
3. Give an example of how PPCPs are possibly viewed from three different perspectives.
 - Doctors
 - Patients
 - Wildlife and aquatic biologists
 - Pharmaceutical companies
 - Wastewater treatment managers
4. What are some possible solutions to the issue? Give two examples.
 - Minimizing the number of prescriptions (if possible) through improved health
 - Properly disposing of unwanted medications
 - Equipping wastewater treatment plants with improved filtering methods
 - Pharmaceutical companies coming up with medications that are better absorbed in the body and reduce excretion
5. Who is an "Agent of Change" for this issue? Why?
 - Doctors: prescribing only as needed, minimizing wasteful prescribing
 - Patients: Refusing samples and any medication that is unnecessary.
 - Pharmaceutical companies: Creating more efficient medicines
 - #1 Agent of Change = YOU! (Education and advocacy for better choices)