

## Investigational Drug Service

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## MEMO TO FILE

17 March 2020

### Re: Investigational drug return processing during COVID-19 pandemic

During COVID-19 pandemic, investigational drugs service (IDS) pharmacy will not be performing a physical count on investigational drugs returned to site by patients. Upon drug return, IDS will log the return in Vestigo as destroyed and dispose per SOP.

Based on recent data, SARS-CoV-2 virus is viable and detectable on plastic surfaces for up to 2-3 days and on cardboard for up to 24 hours.<sup>1</sup> In order to count the return, IDS staff would need to thoroughly disinfect the contaminated bottles, double bag, and quarantine for up to 3 days. Doing so would be against USP800 regulations for hazardous medications, and against our site's drug destruction SOP for all investigational medications. Given the risk of staff exposure to the virus, IDS staff will no longer count the patient investigational drug returns prior to destruction.

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<sup>1</sup> van Doremalen, et al. Aerosol and surface stability of HCoV-19 (SARS-CoV-2) compared to SARS-CoV-1.

<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.03.09.20033217v1.full.pdf>