



## Dental + Medical Provider Toolkit — Talking Points

We recognize your patients' health and safety are your priority.

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To help decrease unintended and inappropriate long-term use of prescription opioid medications, we're asking for your help in informing and educating patients, staff and others in your communities about the statewide opioid epidemic.

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We've developed a toolkit of materials you can use throughout your office and in your practice's communication with patients and families to help spread the word about this important issue. Prescription opioid misuse is a statewide crisis. Opioids are now one of the leading causes of injury-related deaths in Washington state. More people now die from overdose than from car crashes.

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We are working as part of the Washington State Health Care Authority's opioid misuse prevention campaign. The *Starts with One* campaign is designed to inform and educate Washingtonians about the dangers of prescription drug misuse and the importance of safe storage, use, and disposal.

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We understand opioids may be the right choice – and sometimes necessary – for severe pain management. We recognize the risk is less if taken only for a short time and as prescribed.

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Thank you for your support of this important effort.