**Local Pharmacy Partners with Health Care Authority to Address Opioid Misuse**

*The “Lock Up Your Meds” program provides free locking bags to [City] members receiving opioid prescriptions*

[City], WASH - In an ongoing effort to combat the opioid epidemic and prevent overdose deaths, [Pharmacy name] is partnering with the Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) on their [“Lock Up Your Meds” program](https://getthefactsrx.com/pharmacy) to increase the number of community members safely locking up their prescription opioid medications. The program will run from October 2022 to January 2023 in pharmacies throughout the state and relies on pharmacists having conversations with their patients about the safe storage of opioids.

In a recent study that HCA conducted, 83% of Washingtonians surveyed knew it was important to lock up their prescription medications, but only 29% actually did. Simple steps like locking up prescriptions can prevent them from being misused or causing accidental overdoses. To help address this gap between individuals knowing to lock up prescription medications, and actually locking them up, the “Lock Up Your Meds” program equips pharmacies with free locking bags to distribute to patients receiving an opioid prescription.

By leaning on the influence and trust pharmacists have in their community, “Lock Up Your Meds” aims to break down the barriers people say prevent them from locking up medications – a key one being lacking a way to store them securely – and drive behavior change through personal conversations.

As part of the program, pharmacists at [Pharmacy Name] will engage customers who receive opioid prescriptions in a conversation about the importance of safe storage and will ask them to make a personal commitment to lock up their medications. The program is the first of its kind in the country and has been developed based on [a behavior change model researched by Dr. Doug McKenzie-Mohr](https://cbsm.com/about) which shows that when a person makes a personal commitment (or pledge) to take a specific action, the likelihood of that individual following through with the action increases significantly.

A facet of HCA’s current opioid-misuse prevention campaign, *Starts with One*, this program takes an innovative approach to involve community members in addressing the opioid epidemic. The program will also include a voluntary evaluation survey for participants in order to measure outcomes with the hope being to expand the program to even more pharmacies over the next few years.

To learn more about the *Starts with One* campaign, go to [GetTheFactsRX.com](https://www.getthefactsrx.com/).

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