

# STARTS WITH **one**



**The Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) Pharmacy Safe Storage Program raises awareness about the importance of locking up prescription opioids. With every prescription, our goal is to increase the number of people who safely store their medications at home.**

## **Program Background**

Our challenge is to get more people to lock up their medications while they have them at home to reduce the risk of misuse. Here's what you need to know:

- HCA is hosting the program in partnership with pharmacies across Washington
- The program builds on the relationship between pharmacists and their customers, asking them to make a pledge to lock up their prescriptions

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## **How the Program Works**

This program combines three actions to support more people locking up medication:

- The pharmacist asking the customer to lock up their prescription opioids
- Giving the customer a free locking device if they need one
- Asking customers to fill out a pledge card (first name only) that goes on the pharmacy wall to demonstrate safe storage as a community norm

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## **Program Success**

To evaluate program outcomes, we will follow up with a brief survey for customers who participate in the program. The brief survey asks:

1. If the customer received a locking bag
2. If the customer locked up their medication
3. If the customer used a take back site to dispose of unused medication
4. How the customer views safe storage

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## **How You Can Help**

- Let your patients know about the Safe Storage Program at your pharmacy
- Encourage your patients to always lock up prescription medications
- Encourage your patients to safely dispose of unused medications at a designated take back location. Take back locations across the state can be easily found at [MedTakeBackWashington.org](https://www.meditakeback.org)