

# STARTS WITH **one**

Washington State  
Health Care Authority

**The Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) has launched a program to raise awareness about the importance of locking up medications. 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
- This location is an established prescription drug take back site
- 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 medication
- Giving the customer a free locking bag 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 the success of this program, we will follow up with customers who participated.

A brief survey will ask:

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
- Encourage your patients to always lock up prescription medications
- Encourage your patients to safely dispose of unused medications at a designated take back location, such as