

# ALLIED AGAINST Opioid Abuse

**Allied Against Opioid Abuse** is a national education and awareness initiative to help prevent the abuse and misuse of prescription opioids. Founded by the Healthcare Distribution Alliance, the initiative is a collaborative effort with diverse partners across the pharmaceutical supply chain, as well as organizations that are experts in public health and healthcare.

## Partners



## Our Focus: Education About a Patient's Rights, Risks and Responsibilities Associated with Prescription Opioids

### Rights

Make sure to get the information you need to make an informed decision about your prescription medication. If you receive a prescription opioid, consider asking for a partial fill, which limits the number of pills you take home initially. Partial fill can be a useful tool to limit the supply of opioids available at home, reducing the risk of misuse.

### Risks

Prescription opioids carry serious risk of addiction or overdose, especially with prolonged use. Talk to your healthcare professional and make sure you understand these risks and potential side effects.

### Responsibilities

You can help prevent abuse and misuse by properly storing your prescription opioids in a secure place and then safely disposing of any unused medication. If you aren't sure whether your prescription is an opioid, ask your healthcare professional or pharmacist.

# AAOA Programs

## Pharmacy Toolkit

In coordination with our pharmacy partners, the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA), the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations (NASPA) and state pharmacy associations, AAOA developed a suite of tools to help pharmacists engage with and educate patients about the safe use, storage and disposal of prescription opioids. The toolkit includes:

- Pharmacy Display Item
- Patient Handout
- Patient Engagement Guide
- Tips for Talking with Patients and Caregivers
- Provider Engagement Guide
- Social Graphics
- Safe Storage and Disposal Training

**Learn more:** [www.AgainstOpioidAbuse.org/PharmacyToolkit](http://www.AgainstOpioidAbuse.org/PharmacyToolkit)

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## Patient Education Video

With a team of physicians at The Johns Hopkins Hospital, AAOA released a new educational video to help patients prepare for and manage post-surgery pain. The video, "Managing Pain After Surgery: What You Need to Know," underscores that pain is a normal part of the healing process. Johns Hopkins physicians, led by Marty Makary, MD, MPH, discuss the expectations of post-operation pain, provide tips for managing pain without prescription opioids to a functional level and recommend patients talk with their doctor before and after surgery.

**Learn more:** [www.AgainstOpioidAbuse.org/Learn](http://www.AgainstOpioidAbuse.org/Learn)

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## Pledge to Pause

As the country looks to reverse the harmful trend of opioid addiction, the importance of engaging patients, raising awareness about the risks of opioid abuse and educating about safe use is critical. The PA Foundation and AAOA are working together to engage and mobilize physician assistant students around this important issue.

**Learn more:** [www.AgainstOpioidAbuse.org/Pledge-to-Pause](http://www.AgainstOpioidAbuse.org/Pledge-to-Pause)