Allied Against Opioid Abuse is a national education and awareness initiative to help prevent abuse and misuse of prescription opioids. Our goal is to contribute to solving the opioid crisis in a meaningful way by serving as a centralized information resource, providing education and creating awareness.

Learn More:
www.AgainstOpioidAbuse.org

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Allied Against Opioid Abuse (AAOA) is a collaborative effort with diverse partners across the pharmaceutical supply chain, as well as organizations that are experts in public health and healthcare.
Be Part of the Solution

There is not one easy solution to the opioid abuse epidemic. It is a complex issue that requires stakeholders across government, the healthcare supply chain, public health, prevention and healthcare communities working together to provide patients, families and communities with information and tools to address the crisis.

Building a collaborative effort with diverse partners – organizations and individuals – is critical to our success in addressing the opioid crisis. There are things you can do to help.

- **Learn**
  - about your rights, risks, and responsibilities
- **Store**
  - prescription opioids in a secure place
- **Dispose**
  - of unused prescription opioids
Allied Against Opioid Abuse

AAOA is aligned with the healthcare and public health communities’ goal to reduce the abuse and misuse of prescription opioids. AAOA is working to solve the opioid crisis in a meaningful way by serving as a centralized information resource, providing education and creating awareness. As part of these efforts, AAOA will:

- **Build national and local partnerships** to drive awareness among key constituencies (prevention, public health, healthcare, etc.).

- **Provide educational resources** for distribution to patients and the general public.

- **Convene meetings** with leading national industry groups and local organizations to discuss **new approaches to addressing the opioid crisis**.

- **Promote take-back initiatives, disposal options and community education events** across the United States.
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.
Safe Storage Can Help Prevent Abuse

Safe storage is an important part of reducing abuse and misuse of prescription opioids because opioid misuse can start in the home:

- **40.5%** of those who misused prescription pain relievers in 2015 obtained it from a friend or relative for free.
- **9.4%** bought it from a friend or relative.
- **3.8%** stole it from a friend or relative.

What You Can Do

- Store all opioids in their **original packaging** so you retain the prescription information, directions for use and expiration date.
- Keep opioids in a **locked cabinet or lockbox** away from family members and house guests.
- If you wear a fentanyl patch, consider **covering it with adhesive film** to make sure it doesn’t fall off and regularly check to make sure it is still in place.
- Be sure to keep these **medicines out of reach** of young children. For more information on safe medicine storage visit **www.upandaway.org**.
- Be sure to **monitor the medicine you take** and how much you have left so you will know if there is any missing medicine.
Safe disposal is an important part of addressing the opioid abuse epidemic:

Some medicines may be especially harmful and, in some cases, fatal with just one dose if they are used by someone other than the person for whom the medicine was prescribed.iii

Unused medicines are a main source for misuse and overdose. 40.5 percent of those who misused prescription pain relievers in 2015 said that they obtained the medicine from a friend or relative.iv

Accidental exposure to and improper disposal of fentanyl patches are also a risk, especially for young children who could put it in their mouth or on their skin.v

What You Can Do

Follow disposal directions you received with your medicines. If you did not receive directions, ask your healthcare professional or pharmacist about disposal or consult the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) guidelines.

Flush your prescription. Many opioids are included on the FDA’s list of medicines recommended for disposal by flushing.

The FDA recommends folding fentanyl patches in half with the sticky sides together before flushing.

Scratch out all personal information on prescription containers before discarding.

Take advantage of programs that accept unused medications for proper disposal. Find the disposal location in your area by visiting www.AgainstOpioidAbuse.org/disposal.

Ask your physician’s office or pharmacist if they provide medication disposal bags (these bags neutralize medicines to avoid damage to the environment).

You can also combine medication with dirt, kitty litter or used coffee grounds and place the mixture in a sealed plastic bag before discarding in the trash.
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