**FDA *Remove the Risk* Campaign**  
**Drop-in Newsletter Content for   
Health Care Professionals**

**Encourage Your Patients to Dispose of Unused Prescription Opioids**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has launched *Remove the Risk*, an education and outreach campaign to raise awareness about the serious risks of keeping unused prescription opioids in the home and to provide information about safe disposal of these drugs. A [study](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28768328) published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* found that up to 71 percent of opioid tablets prescribed after surgery went unused. Encourage your patients to remove expired, unwanted, or unused prescription pain medicines from their home as quickly as possible to help reduce the chance of accidental or intentional ingestion. Help your patients and their families stay safe. Education about proper disposal of unused prescription opioids can save lives.

Find *Remove the Risk* educational resources, including videos, fact sheets, and information, to help your patients determine the best disposal option for them at [www.FDA.gov/DrugDisposal](http://www.FDA.gov/DrugDisposal) and [www.FDA.gov/DeshacerseDeMedicamentos](http://www.FDA.gov/DeshacerseDeMedicamentos) (Spanish). You also can follow updates from the campaign and join the conversation on social media using #RemoveOpioidRisk.



Figure Mother searching medicine cabinet to locate and safely dispose of opioids.