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## FDA campaign promotes safe disposal of opioid pain medicine

by from the Food and Drug Administration's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research and the Office of Pediatric Therapeutics



Keeping unused prescription opioids at home can result in accidental overdose and death in children, teens and even pets. More than 100 Americans die every day from overdoses involving opioids, and millions are addicted to opioids.

Encourage your patients' families to remove expired, unwanted or unused prescription pain medicines from their home as quickly as possible to reduce the chance of accidental or intentional ingestion.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has launched Remove the Risk([www.fda.gov/removetherisk](http://www.fda.gov/removetherisk)), an education campaign to raise awareness about the serious risks of keeping unused prescription opioids in the home and provide information about safe disposal of these drugs ([www.fda.gov/drugdisposal](http://www.fda.gov/drugdisposal)). The FDA's drug disposal webpage provides easy-to-follow steps, so families can immediately remove prescription opioids from their homes to reduce the risk of misuse or accidental consumption of these drugs by friends or loved ones.

The FDA also offers a digital toolkit of materials, available in English and Spanish, including fact sheets for parents and caregivers of children (<https://www.fda.gov/media/123331/download>) and teens (<https://www.fda.gov/media/123332/download>); television, radio and print public service announcements; social media graphics and posts; and website badges.

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