

Medication Safety



Lock up medicine for safety

Every year thousands of children are admitted to the hospital – and some die – after taking medicine that is not meant for them. Teenagers may experiment with prescription medicines and young children may think they are candy. It's important to follow foster care licensing standards and keep medicine in a locked cabinet, or a box in the refrigerator if required.



Take your old or unused medicines to a "Take-Back Program"

Medicines are good for helping when they are needed, but when you are finished with them, you should get rid of them in the right way so they won't hurt others. Medicine "Take-Back" programs help get rid of old or unused drugs.

Contact a police station or pharmacist to see if there is a program in your area. They can tell you the special rules about which medicines can be taken back.

To find a place to drop-off medicines near you, go to Operation Medicine Drop at: [Operation Medicine Drop | OSFM \(ncosfm.gov\)](http://www.ncosfm.gov)



Questions

If you have questions about throwing away your medicine, please call the DEA Office of Diversion Control Call Center at 1-800-882-9539.

For additional information about medicine safety or poisoning, contact the Carolinas Poison Center at <http://www.ncpoisoncenter.org> or the 24-hour poison help line.

