

Safe Storage for Prescription Stimulant Medications



Any medication can cause harm if taken in the wrong way or by the wrong person. Practicing safe prescription stimulant medication storage can help keep families safe.¹ The following considerations for storage of prescription stimulant medications are from government sources. This information should not serve as medical guidance, but rather as a resource to introduce topics and terms related to the storage of these prescription stimulant medications.

PROPER STORAGE CAN HELP PREVENT ACCIDENTAL OR INTENTIONAL MISUSE:

If not stored properly, prescription stimulant medications can be found easily in the medicine cabinet or on the kitchen shelf, and family members and visitors could accidentally take or intentionally misuse the medicine^{2,3}

Prescription stimulant medications are Schedule II controlled substances and have a high potential for abuse and physical and psychological dependence and may have harmful health effects such as overdose²

Young children may be tempted by colorful pills that may resemble candy to them, so it's important to keep prescription stimulant medications out of sight and out of reach¹

Contact the poison control center right away at (800) 222-1222 if you think someone in your home may have accidentally ingested a prescription stimulant medication, even if you aren't sure¹

SAFE STORAGE AT HOME

CLOSE TIGHTLY¹

Lock the safety cap before putting prescription stimulant medications away, and if the bottle has a locking cap that turns, twist it until the bottle clicks or cannot twist any further

LOCK IT UP

Put prescription stimulant medicines away every time after use. Schedule II drugs, like prescription stimulant medications, should be stored in a locked cabinet or other secure storage container (i.e., lock box)^{1,2,4}

SAFE STORAGE AT SCHOOL

TRANSPORT SECURELY⁶

Prescription stimulant medications brought to school should be in original containers appropriately labeled by a pharmacist or physician

GIVE MEDICATION TO THE NURSE⁶

Prescription stimulant medications should be stored securely by a school nurse

Why? Controlled substances, and medicines at risk of misuse or diversion, should not be carried at school

LOCK IT UP⁶

Prescription stimulant medications should be stored securely by a school nurse

Why? Safe storage diminishes opportunities for easy access, as some individuals may be tempted to steal or share prescription stimulant medications^{7,8}

LEARN MORE

Explore interactive videos on responsible prescription stimulant medication use at home and in school:

adlontherapeutics.com/supporting-responsible-stimulant-use/

¹ Put Your Medicines Up and Away and Out of Sight | Features | CDC. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/features/medicationstorage/index.html>. Published June 17, 2019. Accessed September 2020; ² Prescription for Disaster: How Teens Abuse Medicine.; 2018. https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/resource-center/Publications/DEA_Prescription-For-Disaster_508ver.pdf. Accessed September 2020; ³ U.S. Food & Drug Administration. How to Safely Dispose of Unused or Expired Medicine - Video Transcript. <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/ensuring-safe-use/medicine/how-safely-dispose-unused-or-expired-medicine-video-transcript>. Published 2020. Accessed May 2022; ⁴ Drug Enforcement Administration. Controlled Substance Schedules. <https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/schedules/>. Accessed September 2020; ⁵ U.S. FDA. How to Dispose of Unused Medicines. FDA Consumer Health Information. <https://www.fda.gov/media/74164/download>. Published December 2013. Accessed September 2020; ⁶ Policy Statement – Guidance for the Administration of Medication in School. Pediatrics. 2009;124(4):1244-1251. <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/pediatrics/124/4/1244.full.pdf>. Accessed September 2020; ⁷ U.S. FDA. Lock it Up: Medicine Safety in Your Home. U.S. Food and Drug Administration. <https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/lock-it-medicine-safety-your-home>. Accessed September 2020; ⁸ Volk K. Teen Prescription Drug Misuse and Abuse. SAMHSA. <https://www.samhsa.gov/homelessness-programs-resources/hpr-resources/teen-prescription-drug-misuse-abuse>. Published February 29, 2016. Accessed September 2020.