

Prevent Prescription Drug Theft

Guide to Protecting Prescription Medication

Your number one goal is to keep your loved one safe. In order to achieve that goal, you must ensure that your family member's prescription drugs are protected from theft. Prescription drug diversion is a significant problem that could rob your loved one of the medications needed to stay healthy and comfortable. Follow this guide to prevent prescription drug theft.

Secure All Medications: Only keep **1 week's** worth of medication out at any time. Store a week's worth of medication in a pill organizer or in a blister/bubble pack if available from your pharmacy. Keep the medication in a specific location (preferably a lock box). The rest of the medication should either be locked away or stored outside of the home. Periodically, check to ensure that the pill organizer has the correct amount of medication remaining.

Post a Schedule: There are undoubtedly a number of different people coming in and out of the home (attendants, nurses, cleaners, landscapers, meal delivery, clergy, etc.). Post a schedule showing when all service providers are expected to be at the house. Ask to be notified if any service provider shows up at the house at an unscheduled time.

Set Clear Limits: Set clear limits on who is allowed to access and dispense medications. It is a good idea to have more than one person who can access the medications, but you should not provide access to more people than is necessary. Ensure that everybody is clear on who is dispensing the medication and how it is recorded.

Be an Educated Consumer: Before allowing anybody to provide services within the home, educate yourself on their substance free workplace practices. If it is a company with employees, inquire about their drug and alcohol policy, drug testing program, background checks and employee education. If you are hiring an individual who is not associated with a larger company, find him through referrals from trusted friends who have utilized his services. You can even request that an independent contractor submit to a drug test or background check.

Properly Dispose of Unwanted Medication: If you have medications that are no longer in use, please dispose of them properly. Call your local Police Department and ask about any permanent prescription drug drop-boxes or upcoming take back events. You should never dispose of unused medication in the toilet or garbage.



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